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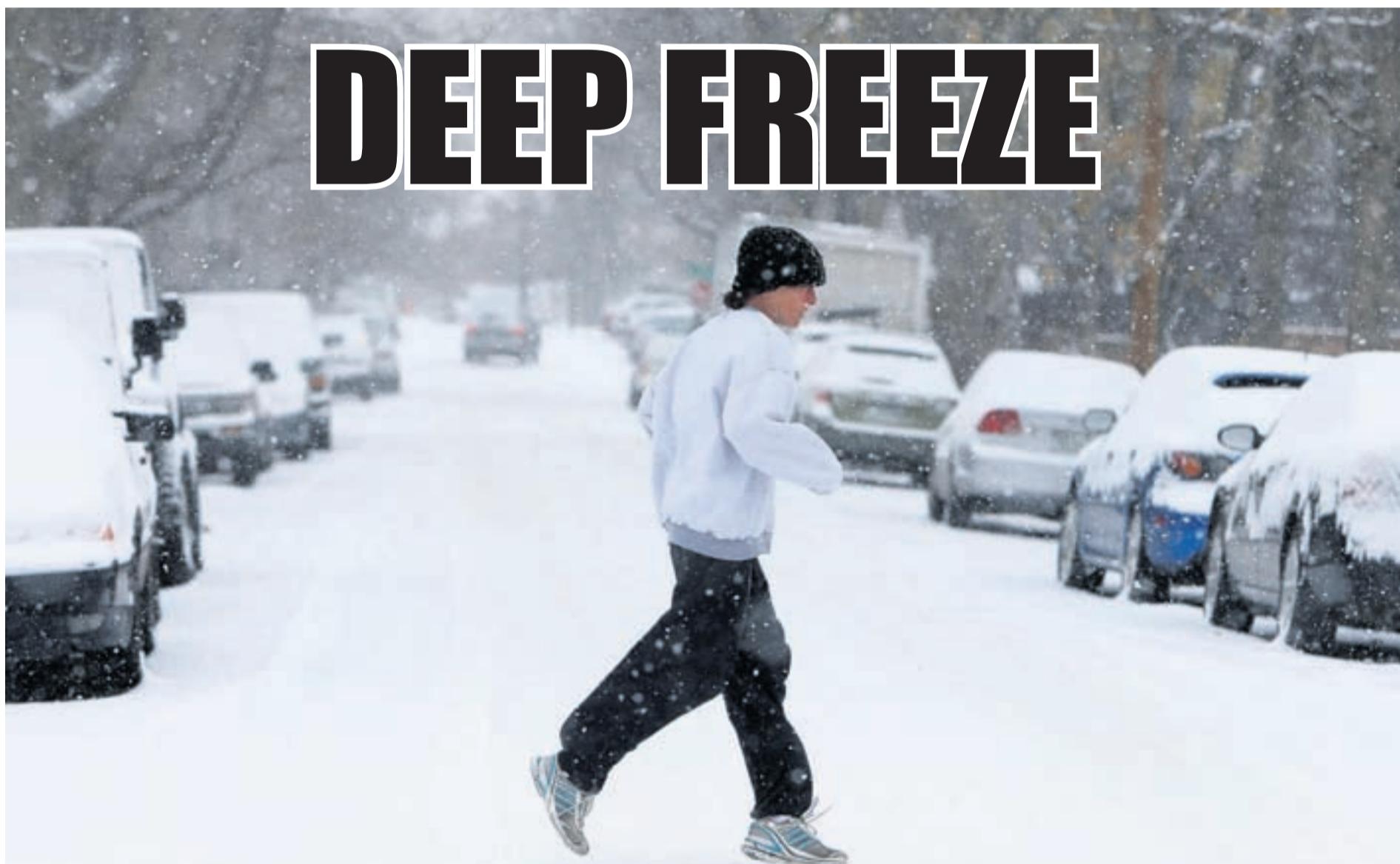
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Thursday, November 13, 2014

DEEP FREEZE

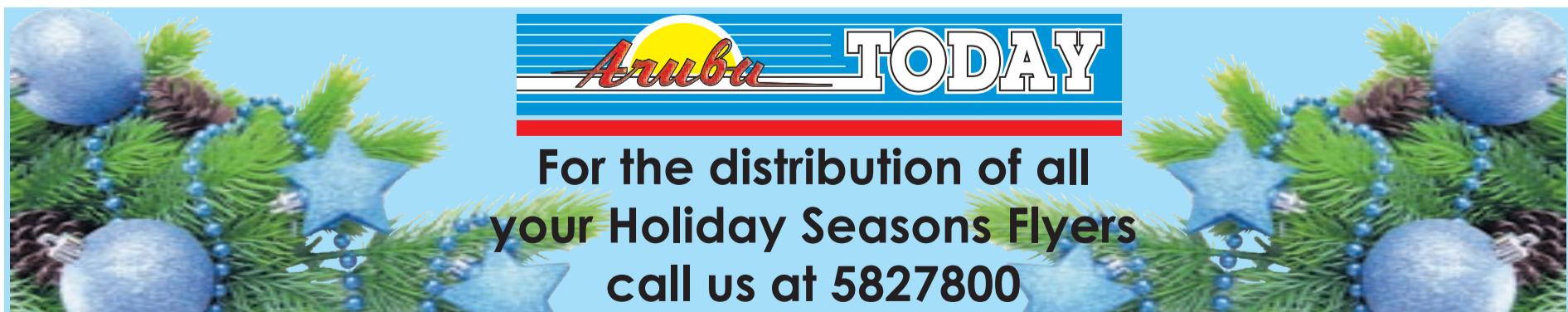


Arctic Chill Settles Across Upper Midwest, Rockies

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A jogger steps carefully across snow-covered street Wednesday morning Nov. 12, 2014 in Denver. A powerful storm made up of the remnants of Typhoon Nuri moved into the intermountain West on Monday and has settled across the central part of the country, plunging temperatures below zero in some locations and dropping a light snow that has snarled traffic.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)



APEC Summit: Obama visit ends with blunt words by Xi Jinping

MARK LANDLER

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BEIJING - President Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping promoted the virtues of cooperation between China and the United States on Wednesday, drawing an unusually productive state visit to a close with a news conference that nevertheless laid bare stubborn differences over issues like the Hong

work together on an urgent global challenge."

But it was the differences that were cast in sharp relief during a rare question-and-answer session after the presidents delivered their statements. During the planning for Obama's visit, the White House had lobbied intensively for reporters' questions to be taken, and the Chinese authorities relented only a day before

declaring that the visa problems of news organizations, including The Times, were of their own making. He evinced little patience for the foreign news media's concerns that they were being penalized for unfavorable news coverage of Chinese leaders and their families. Xi said that China protected the rights of media organizations, but that the

Chinese say, 'Let he who tied the bell on the tiger take it off' - a saying that can also be translated as, "The one who created the problem should be the one who solves it."

Xi also bluntly warned the United States and other foreign countries not to get involved in the pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong, which he dismissed as illegal, responding to a



President Barack Obama and China's President Xi Jinping drink a toast at a lunch banquet in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Nov. 12, 2014. Presidents Obama and Xi jointly announced a landmark agreement Wednesday that includes new targets for carbon emissions reductions by the U.S. and a first-ever commitment by China to stop its emissions from growing by 2030.

(Greg Baker/Pool via The New York Times)

Kong pro-democracy demonstrations and press freedom. Announcing a landmark agreement to confront climate change, Obama and Xi portrayed it as an example of how the world's two largest economies could collaborate on the world's most pressing problems, even as they compete in many other areas. "When China and the U.S. work together, we can become an anchor of world stability and a propeller of world peace," Xi said. Obama echoed that sentiment, calling the climate change agreement a milestone in the countries' relations that "shows what's possible when we

the leaders stood together in the Great Hall of the People.

Initially, Xi appeared to ignore two questions from a reporter for The New York Times: whether China feared that the Obama administration's pivot to Asia represented an effort to contain China, and whether China would ease its refusal to issue visas to some foreign correspondents in light of a broader visa agreement with the United States.

After first taking an unrelated question from a Chinese state-run newspaper - appearing to draw a bemused reaction from Obama - Xi circled back,

organizations needed to abide by the rules of the country.

"When a certain issue is raised as a problem, there must be a reason," he said, apparently acknowledging a link between news coverage and the refusal to extend the visas.

Xi used a Chinese metaphor to describe the travails of The Times and other organizations, saying they were like a faulty car. "When a car breaks down on the road, perhaps we need to step down and see what the problem is," he said.

In a passage that was not translated into English, the president added that "the

question to Obama about rumors in the Chinese media that the United States is fomenting the unrest there.

"Hong Kong's affairs are exclusively China's internal affairs, and foreign countries should not interfere in Hong Kong's affairs in any fashion," the Chinese leader declared. "It goes without saying that law and order must be protected in any place."

Authorities in Hong Kong have issued increasingly strong warnings for protesters to clear the streets as Obama's visit and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting in Beijing have neared an end. □

Turkish group roughs up US sailors at port

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Anti-American protesters shouting "Yankee, go home!" roughed up three U.S. Navy sailors Wednesday in Istanbul near where their warship was docked on an inlet of the Bosphorus Strait in the Black Sea.

A dozen or more protesters shouted at them, calling them killers and said they should leave Turkey. The protesters, who carried a banner of the left-leaning Youth Association of Turkey, threw red paint at the sailors and briefly succeeded in putting white sacks over their heads.

"Soldiers from the occupying country think they can walk around freely in Eminonu," association spokesman Melik Dibek said, referring to the neighborhood where the incident occurred. "It's obvious why they've anchored here — because of their ambitions in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. American imperialism is the reason why the Middle East has turned into a chamber of fire."

The servicemen, who were not in uniform, were from the USS Ross, a guided-missile destroyer docked nearby, according to Capt. Greg Hicks, a spokesman for the U.S. European Command. He said they were not hurt and were safely back aboard the ship, but that shore leave for its sailors was canceled for the remainder of the day.

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara condemned the attack on Twitter and said it had no doubt that most Turks would reject such an action.

Anti-American sentiment in Turkey is not widespread, but some Turks accuse the United States of meddling in regional affairs.

In Washington, Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, called the attack "ugly and disturbing." He said the attackers, whom he called street thugs. □

Myanmar troubles have a big Obama goal at risk

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)

— For President Barack Obama, Myanmar's stalled progress on promised political and economic reforms is jeopardizing what was to be a crowning achievement for his foreign policy legacy.

Obama arrived in Myanmar's capital of Naypyitaw on Wednesday amid persistent questions about whether the government would follow through on its pledges — and whether the U.S. had made too many overtures to the long-isolated country too soon. Myanmar won wide sanctions relief from Obama after its sudden and unexpected shift from a half-century of military rule, but there's little certainty about the country's future.

"Progress has not come as fast as many had hoped when the transition began," Obama said in an interview with Myanmar's The Irrawaddy magazine. "In some areas there has been a slowdown in reforms, and even some steps backward."

White House officials say Obama has always been realistic about the challenges ahead for Myanmar, a country that in many cases lacks the infrastructure and capacity to enact the reforms its leaders have outlined. But critics of the administration's policy say the U.S. gave up its leverage too quickly by rewarding the government for promises rather than results. "With so many avenues for pressure lost, it can indeed seem like the U.S. doesn't have a lot of cards left to play," said John Sifton, the Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

Critics also contend that the president got caught up in the notion that opening Myanmar to the outside world would be a central part of his legacy as America's self-proclaimed Pacific president. Indeed, a successful democratic transition would fit neatly into Obama's broader Asia

strategy, which includes deepening U.S. political and economic partnerships in the region, particularly with countries seen to share America's values. The so-called pivot to Asia has raised concerns in China — Myanmar's neighbor and largest trading partner — that the U.S. is seeking to contain Chinese influence. Despite Obama's hopes for Myanmar, optimism within the administration has faded somewhat since the president's trip here in 2012. He was the first sitting U.S. president to visit the country, and aides still fondly recall the massive crowds that lined the streets to watch his motorcade pass.

Yet there's little question Myanmar has failed to make good on the promises its leaders made to Obama during that short visit. More than any other issue, White House officials say it's Myanmar's persecution of minority Rohingya Muslims in the Rakhine state that threatens to alienate the U.S. and other nations that have been drawn to the country. Attacks by Buddhist extremists since mid-2012 have left hundreds of Rohingya Muslims dead and 140,000 trapped in dire conditions in camps. With presidential elections in Myanmar looming next year, the status of the Rakhine state has become mired in politics. The Rohingya are deeply disdained by many in Myanmar, and most officials dare not publicly call for better treatment, not even the country's pro-democracy hero Aung San Suu Kyi.

Obama planned to meet with Suu Kyi at the end of his trip. First he was holding talks with Asia-Pacific leaders, then meeting with the country's President Thein Sein. White House officials have acknowledged that Obama almost certainly wouldn't be visiting Myanmar at this point had the country not been hosting the Asia-Pacific summits that he had pledged to attend as president. □

UN anti-torture panel grills US officials

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — A U.N. panel began grilling American officials Wednesday over the U.S. government's compliance with a key anti-torture treaty, raising a series of alleged violations since the 9/11 attacks. At the start of a two-day

Guantanamo Bay conditions.

He asked what concrete measures have been taken to implement President Barack Obama's "clear" directives against torture. A day earlier, the committee took private testimony from death penalty experts, anti-torture activists, former

Ferguson officer Darren Wilson, who is white, will face criminal charges for fatally shooting Brown, 18, who was black and unarmed.

"We came here to the U.N. to get justice for our son," the boy's father, Michael Brown Sr., told reporters after the panel concluded its



Lesley McSpadden, left, and Michael Brown, Sr., right, parents of teenager Michael Brown who was shot by a policeman in Ferguson, Missouri, speak during a press conference about the UN Committee Against Torture who convenes this week to evaluate the US government's compliance with the Convention Against Torture, in Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/Keystone, Martial Trezzini)

hearing, Alessio Bruni of Italy, one of the panel's chief investigators, told the high-level U.S. delegation that it must answer for alleged violations ranging from CIA rendition at so-called black sites to police brutality and

Guantanamo Bay detainee Murat Kurnaz and the parents of Michael Brown, the victim in the Ferguson, Missouri, shooting case that has riveted a nation.

A decision is expected later this month about whether

first day of questioning — a two-hour session that did not include any specific comments about the Ferguson case. U.S. government officials return Thursday to provide the panel with some answers. □

Iran says it replied to Obama's letters

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A top security official in Iran said Wednesday the Islamic Republic has written back in response to letters sent by U.S. President Barack Obama, the first acknowledgement of such correspondence.

However, it's not clear whether Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wrote the letters himself.

The letter writing is part of a recent thaw in relations between the two countries since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the U.S.-backed shah and the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, where 52 Americans were held hos-

tage for more than a year. It also comes as a U.S.-led coalition battles the Islamic State group in neighboring Iraq and as Iran and world powers negotiate a permanent deal regarding the country's contested nuclear program.

"This is not the first time that such a thing has taken place," said Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, during an appearance on state television Wednesday night. "It had previously taken place and necessary response was given to some of them."

Obama's recent letter to Khamenei described a shared interest between the U.S. and Iran in fighting

Islamic State militants and stressed that any cooperation on that would be largely contingent on Iran agreeing to the nuclear deal, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Shamkhani said the letter "mainly focused on nuclear issues."

We responded "that we can't accept at all to have a decorative, caricaturistic nuclear industry," Shamkhani said.

There was no immediate response in Washington to Shamkhani's comments.

Iran and six world powers — the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany — are negotiating a final nuclear accord now. □

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Arctic chill settles across upper Midwest, Rockies

DAVID N. GOODMAN

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The Arctic chill that has gripped the Upper Midwest and Rockies is spreading.

Other parts of the U.S. are expecting sharp drops in temperature in the coming days from a powerful weather system that hit Alaska with hurricane-force winds over the weekend. The system has dumped 3 feet of snow in some places.

As much as 3 feet of snow blanketed parts of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, with temperatures in the 20s and 30s early Wednesday. Up to 18 inches fell in northern Wisconsin and parts of central Minnesota saw more than 16.

Many roads were snow-covered and slippery Wednesday morning in the Upper Peninsula, where residents are accustomed to snowy conditions. Of his drive into work, meteorologist Justin Titus said that roads were "just rutted out and kind of felt like you were driving over a washboard."



A man walks through Mears Park in downtown St. Paul, Minn., during the first snowstorm of the season. The Arctic chill that has gripped the Upper Midwest and Rockies is spreading, with parts of the U.S. expecting sharp drops in temperature in the coming days.

(AP Photo/The Star Tribune, Leila Navidi)

The National Weather Service said some lake-effect snow, mainly in Michigan, is forecast through the weekend.

The unseasonably low temperatures are spreading. In northern Illinois, tem-

peratures fell more than 30 degrees in less than a day, from a high of 58 on Tuesday to 26 degrees on Wednesday morning.

The chill was expected to hit the Appalachians and mid-South by Wednesday morning, and the East Coast by Thursday.

In Billings, Montana, where temperatures fell from the high 60s into the single digits on Tuesday, Patsy Kimmel said she was warned about the weather before arriving from Oklahoma to celebrate her 70th birthday with family.

"Yesterday I was wearing sandals and a short-sleeve shirt, and today I'm wearing a coat and scarf and turtleneck and sweatshirt and gloves," she said.

In the Texas Panhandle, temperatures plunged from 70 degrees into the teens overnight. Oklahoma City went from a high of 80 degrees Monday to a low

of 30 Tuesday morning.

In the Dakotas, wind chills made it feel like 20 below in some places. That was good news for Action Mechanical Inc. of Rapid City, South Dakota, a heating and ventilation business that was doing booming trade. "Bang! We get this arctic blast, and it just opens the floodgates," said John Hammond Jr., a department head. "We're behind right now as we're sitting here talking."

Meteorologists are adamant the weather isn't because of the polar vortex, a giant upper air pattern that normally pens in cold air in the Arctic in the winter. Instead, they say it's being pushed in by a different weather phenomenon more related to the remnants of a powerful typhoon.

"The polar vortex itself has not moved south. It's still in the Arctic where it always

is," said National Weather Service spokeswoman Susan Buchanan.

Whatever the case, the cold is expected to linger. Some regions will go from record warm to record cold in just two days, with temperatures dropping 15 to 20 degrees below normal on the East Coast Friday and Saturday. Freezing temperatures will likely dip as far south as Atlanta on Friday, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the Weather Underground. The early wintry weather in the Midwest gave Principal Lynn Grewing an opportunity to test a virtual classroom: She asked students of St. Cloud Cathedral high school in central Minnesota to work from home using laptops or iPads.

Grewing said her students' cherished snow days are now a thing of the past.

"This is what we will be doing every single snow day going forward," she said. "I'll be honest. There has been some grumbling."

Private schools such as Cathedral, as well as some public school districts nationwide, are starting to use the flexibility that technology provides to meet school mandates without needing makeup days when bad weather keeps students at home.

Cathedral senior Tommy Auger said doing classwork at home using his school-provided MacBook Air didn't feel very different to a day in class. Once they got over the initial disappointment of missing a snow day off, Auger said he and his classmates agreed they would rather skip a day of sledding than make up the missed school days in the summer.

"It's hard to think ahead, but it's definitely better," he said. □

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Dangling workers rescued from World Trade Center

NEW YORK (AP) — Two window washers were trapped for more than an hour Wednesday on scaffolding dangling 69 stories up the side of 1 World Trade Center before firefighters were able to cut through the new skyscraper's glass and pull them to safety.

The dramatic rescue occurred on the south side of the 1,776-foot (541-meter), 104-story building, where the open-topped platform hung at about a 45-degree angle and swayed slightly in the wind.

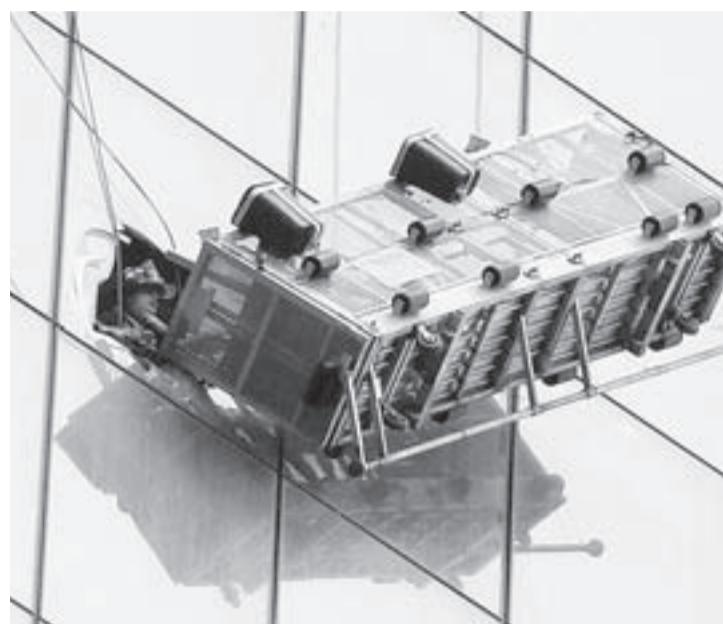
The Fire Department said the workers were tethered and communicating with rescuers during their ordeal on the side of the nation's tallest skyscraper.

A cable on the scaffolding apparently broke around 1

p.m. (1800 GMT), according to Joe Pentangelo, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the building.

New York City official said they don't know yet why the cable malfunctioned. Rescuers could be seen dropping cables to workers and the fire department tweeted a photograph of rescuers inside the building looking at the dangling platform. At one point, another scaffold was inched down the same side of the building.

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said firefighters used diamond cutters to saw through a two-layered glass window. The opening was roughly 6 feet (2 meters) tall.



A firefighter looks out an opening cut into a glass window at 1 World Trade Center after rescuing two workers from their collapsed scaffolding in New York, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014. The two window washers were trapped for more than an hour. The rescue occurred on the south side of the 1,776-foot, 104-story building.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

Nigro said the workers had mild hypothermia after their ordeal.

People on the ground had been moved back in case glass began flying. Office workers and construction workers streamed onto a nearby street, their necks craned upward to watch the scaffold as it is waved in the wind. Dozens of emergency vehicles lined the street.

The silvery skyscraper, which rose from the ashes of the Sept. 11, 2001, reopened just last week to 175 employees of the magazine publishing giant Conde Nast. About 3,000 more Conde Nast employees are expected to move in by early next year, eventually occupying 25 floors of the \$3.9 billion tower. □

Forensics expert to testify at Ferguson grand jury

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A private forensic pathologist who performed an autopsy on an unarmed 18-year-old black man will testify before the grand jury deciding whether to charge the police officer who shot him, the attorney for Brown's parents said Wednesday. Attorney Benjamin Crump confirmed that former New York City Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Michael Baden is scheduled to testify Thursday. Ed Magee, a spokesman for St. Louis County prosecutor Bob McCulloch, declined comment. Messages seeking comment were left with Baden.

Crump said Michael Brown's parents are pleased that Baden will testify, but skeptical about the objectivity of the process. "Their reaction was that

they want the jury to hear from an independent witness not associated or controlled by the police department," Crump said. "They feel that all the local authorities are going to work together to try to exonerate the killer of their child."

Brown's parents are in Geneva, where the U.N. Committee Against Torture is hearing testimony this week about U.S. policies.

Brown was shot in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson on Aug. 9 after Officer Darren Wilson, who is white, ordered Brown, who was black, and a friend to stop walking in the street.

The shooting of the unarmed 18-year-old led to sometimes-violent protests and the St. Louis region is bracing for renewed unrest once the grand jury decision is announced. □

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Benefits changes that may stem from overhaul tax

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

Many workers will soon find that their health insurance costs more and covers less next year, and that employers have taken a sharper interest in their well-being. Experts say the impact of a health care overhaul tax that doesn't start until 2018 is already being felt. Millions of employees are learning this month about changes in their employer-sponsored health cover-

probably accelerating the pace of change ... but it's not creating the change," said Jim Winkler of the benefits consulting firm Aon Hewitt.

Businesses are making adjustments for a tax that's more than three years away because it's preferable to phase in changes. Taking that approach helps avoid spooking employees and inadvertently pushing them to leave.

Almost two thirds of the

ible is met. Such adjustments can lower the premium or price of coverage for the employer, and they also can push employees to shop around for a better deal on care, which can further drive down costs.

2. ENCOURAGE HEALTHY BEHAVIOR:

More companies are dangling incentives, such as cash or penalties that can include higher premiums, to

Your spouse will no longer be covered if he or she has an affordable insurance option from another employer. That's what some employees of the package delivery service United Parcel Service Inc. learned last year.

Benefits experts don't see a groundswell of companies attempting to copy that fairly drastic move, but more are considering surcharges for spousal coverage or reducing the



Yolanda Hormilla, a RN working for Florida Blue, checks Jose Ballivian's blood pressure at the Sunrise, Fla. sales office. Many workers will soon find that their health insurance costs more and covers less next year, and that employers have taken a sharper interest in their well-being. Experts say the impact of a health care overhaul tax that doesn't start until 2018 is already being felt.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

age for 2015. Some of the adjustments are likely to stem from the looming tax, which will hit plans valued at more than \$10,200 for individual coverage and \$27,500 for families. Nearly half of employers with 5,000 or more workers will trigger this tax in 2018, according to the benefits firm Towers Watson. They'll find a bill that amounts to 40 percent of the total value of coverage that exceeds those thresholds.

And this is not a one-year concern. The thresholds rise over time, but they are expected to grow more slowly than health care costs. That means that more companies are expected to trigger the tax after 2018. Employers have been adjusting coverage for years to contain rising health care costs, and the looming tax is speeding up this process. "The excise tax is

companies in a recent Towers Watson study said that the tax will either moderately or strongly influence their health care strategies over the next two years. Here are four approaches your company may be implementing to reduce costs and limit its possible tax bill come 2018.

1. RAISE COSTS FOR WORKERS:

In a survey of more than 300 large employers by Aon Hewitt, 33 percent expected to raise out-of-pocket costs for their employees next year.

That means people may have to pay a larger deductible before most of their coverage kicks in, or a bigger bill replaces that tidy \$20 co-payment at the doctor's office. It could also mean workers will pay a higher co-insurance, or the percentage of the bill leftover after the deduct-

motivate employees to get screenings that measure things like their blood pressure or to fill out a health-risk questionnaire. These so-called wellness programs, which can evolve to include health coaches and gym memberships, won't cut costs next year, but employers think they can make a big difference in the long run.

For instance, an employee who learns that his cholesterol level has climbed into dangerous territory may start exercising, eating better and taking medications to improve it. That can stave off expensive care down the road.

"Employers certainly feel strongly that they need to get people engaged in trying to improve their own health," Winkler said.

3. TAKE A HARD LOOK AT DEPENDENT COVERAGE:

amount they pay to cover adult dependents.

More companies may ultimately drop spouses from their coverage as 2018 approaches, depending on how close they are to hitting the tax threshold, Winkler said.

4. ADJUST PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS:

Prescription drug coverage may provide fewer medication choices or a narrower network of pharmacies. For instance, it may become more common for a plan to offer a choice of two options instead of three for a particular prescription. Such restrictions give drug plans leverage to negotiate better prices and consequently, lower costs.

Companies also may tier their prescriptions and require higher out-of-pocket payments for more expensive drugs.

GM: Parts set to fix SUVs that can catch fire

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — For the owners of 189,000 General Motors SUVs, the days of parking them outside the garage for fear that they could catch fire will soon come to an end.

The company, in documents posted Wednesday by U.S. safety regulators, said it will start notifying customers this week that they can take their SUVs to dealers, who will replace faulty power window switches.

The recall of SUVs, mostly from the 2006 and 2007 model years, was announced June 30, but it took more than four months to get replacement parts ready. It covers the Chevrolet TrailBlazer, GMC Envoy, Buick Rainier, Isuzu Ascender and Saab 9-7X, mainly in North America. It was the third recall for the same problem, but the first two didn't work.

Water can get inside the window switch on the driver's side, causing rust and possibly an electrical short circuit. That can cause them to overheat and catch fire, and it also can cause them to stop working or raise or lower themselves.

The problem was so serious that GM told customers to park the SUVs outside until they can be fixed, and the company ordered dealers to stop selling the SUVs as used vehicles until repairs are made. The switches could even malfunction with the vehicle parked and the key removed.

Letters that will be mailed out starting Thursday urge customers to contact dealers as soon as possible to make a service appointment. And yes, they still need to be parked outside until dealers replace the power window switch module. The work will be done for free.

GM received reports of at least 28 fires but no injuries. Earlier fixes by GM included a protective coating around the window switch circuit board, which is less costly than replacing the switches.

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Urgent memo orders improvement at US Wal-Marts

STEVEN GREENHOUSE
HIROKO TABUCHI

© 2014 New York Times
VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. - The

dairy section in the Wal-Mart supercenter here, just across the border from Queens, was sparsely stocked. Some gallon jugs of milk were dented, others soiled with what looked like dirt. The meat aisle had run out of ground beef patties and strip steak, and residue streaked some shelves.

The disarray and out-of-stock items at just one store appear to be examples of wider problems that Wal-Mart is pressing store managers to address.

Last month, the retailer issued an "urgent agenda" memo to managers across the country pushing them to improve performance on "Chilled and Fresh" items in its dairy, meat and produce departments, part of an effort by Wal-Mart to stem long-sluggish sales. It also reflected customer complaints that Wal-Mart has received in recent years as it has expanded offerings of organic foods and produce, often at cheaper prices than its competitors. The memo, marked "highly sensitive," tells Wal-Mart marketing managers to make sure that the company's 4,965 U.S. stores discount aging meat and baked goods to maximize the chance that those items will sell before their expiration dates.

The memo - leaked for public use by a Wal-Mart manager unhappy about understaffing - also tells stores to be sure to "rotate" dairy products and eggs, which means removing expired items and adding new stock at the bottom and back of display cases. In discussing produce, the memo tells managers to "validate that stores are

fully executing on 'Would I Buy It?'" - a plea to make sure that every store removes moldy or rotting fruits and vegetables. Sent on Oct. 2, the memo reminds managers that their No. 1 concern must be sales. For the last 18 months, Wal-Mart's sales

have been sluggish in stores open at least a year. The memo also urges managers to reduce backup inventory to trim costs, and warns them not to exceed budgets for their stores. Some retail analysts say these problems stem from Wal-Mart's failure to have

enough employees in its stores to do the many chores needed, like marking down aging items, rotating milk or getting needed goods from the backroom to stock shelves. Some analysts say Wal-Mart's acknowledgment of the problem is a step in

the right direction. "They seem to get it," said Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy in Connecticut. "They know that they are still weak in fresh. And that if the produce is overripe or out of stock, people are going to go somewhere else."

"But this isn't going to be an overnight fix," he added. Janet Sparks, a customer service manager at a Wal-Mart in Baker, Louisiana, and a member of OUR Walmart, an employee group pushing for improved wages and working conditions, said, "Understaffing from the sales floor to the front end has greatly affected the store." She said substantial staffing cuts began in 2010.

Sparks said there used to be five customer service managers per shift, who often helped cashiers with problems, while now is there just one. That, she said, sometimes causes long lines and customers having to wait 30 minutes when numerous cashiers have questions or problems. □



Dented and dirty milk containers on sale at a Walmart in Valley Stream, N.Y., Nov. 11, 2014. The giant retailer recently issued an "urgent agenda" memo to managers across the country pushing them to improve performance on "Chilled and Fresh" items in its dairy, meat and produce departments, part of a bid by Walmart to stem long-sluggish sales.

(The New York Times)

America's wholesale stockpiles up 0.3 percent

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. wholesale businesses posted a modest gain in their stockpiles in September as sales rebounded from a big decline the previous month.

Stockpiles at the wholesale level increased 0.3 percent in September following a 0.6 percent rise in August, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. Sales by wholesalers rose 0.2 percent in September after a sharp 0.8 percent August decline.

The big August setback in

sales may have made businesses more cautious about restocking their shelves until they see more evidence of rising demand. When companies add goods to their stockpiles it typically reflects optimism about future demand.

But if businesses are cutting back on inventory rebuilding, it can be a sign of concern about future sales. Swings in inventories can have a big impact on overall economic growth.

The inventory increase reflected a 0.8 percent rise in stockpiles of durable goods with auto inventories rising

1.2 percent and furniture up 1.5 percent. Inventories on non-durable goods fell 0.6 percent with declines in a number of areas, led by a 5.3 percent drop in petroleum, a drop that reflected falling energy prices.

The economy posted a healthy growth rate of 3.5 percent in the July-September period, and many economists believe growth will remain at a solid pace around 3 percent in the current October-December quarter and for all of next year.

The optimism is based in part on the sustained gains

that have been made in hiring and in driving the unemployment rate lower. The jobless rate fell to 5.8 percent for October, the lowest point in more than six years.

Inventory changes can have a big impact on the economy. In the April-June quarter, faster inventory building by businesses accounted for 1.4 percentage points of the 4.6 percent annual growth rate. In the July-September period, inventory building slowed and this subtracted 0.6 percentage point from growth. □

Doctor: US girl is competent for trial in stabbing

M.L. JOHNSON
Associated Press

WAUKESHA, Wisconsin (AP)

— A state doctor believes the mental condition of one of two girls accused of repeatedly stabbing a classmate to please the fictional horror character Slender Man has improved, and the 12-year-old is fit to stand trial, a Wisconsin judge said Wednesday. Judge Michael Bohren summarized the doctor's report during a brief hearing, but

he didn't act on it after defense attorney Anthony Cotton said he hadn't had a chance to discuss it with his client. Bohren told Cotton to talk to the girl and come back to court Tuesday.

The judge had ordered the girl to undergo mental health treatment in August, after a psychologist testified that she claimed to see and hear things others could not, including unicorns, Slender Man and an

antagonist in the Harry Potter series, Voldemort.

Cotton, who declined comment after the hearing, expressed concern previously about the girl's mental health and advocated for treatment.

The girl appeared more alert Wednesday, sitting calmly in street clothes with her hair brushed and pushed back from her face. During previous hearings, she often wore jail clothes, looked disheveled

and sometimes rocked back and forth in her chair with her hair covering her face.

Court documents allege the two girls plotted for months to kill their classmate in an effort to curry favor with Slender Man, then attacked the victim during a walk in the woods after a May 30 sleepover. All three girls were 12 at the time.

Cotton's client told investigators she stabbed the vic-

tim multiple times, according to a criminal complaint. The other girl, who has a competency hearing next month, advised the victim to lay quietly so she would lose less blood. But the other girl told investigators she really just wanted the victim to be silent so she wouldn't draw attention to them. Once her attackers left, the victim crawled to a path, where a bicyclist found her and called emergency dispatch.

Competency tests ordered in Jewish site shootings

H. HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

OLATHE, Kansas (AP)

An avowed white supremacist accused in the fatal shooting of three people at two Jewish sites in Kansas was ordered to undergo mental testing Wednesday, prompting him to accuse the judge of violating his right to a speedy trial.

Frazier Glenn Miller, 73, is charged with capital murder in the attacks outside a Jewish community center and a nearby retirement home on April 13, the eve of Passover. None of the victims was Jewish.

Johnson County Judge Thomas Kelly Ryan said Miller's attorneys indicated during a closed-door meeting that their client was having trouble assisting with "various aspects" and that a determination needs to be made. The judge scheduled a Dec. 18 hearing to discuss the results of the evaluation.

The move delays a preliminary hearing set to determine if there is enough evidence to take Miller's case to trial. Miller objected, say-

ing that dragging out the case would help the prosecutor get re-elected.

Miller is accused of killing Dr. William Lewis Corpo-

ron, 69, and his 14-year-old grandson, Reat Griffin Underwood, who were at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City for a

singing contest audition. He also is accused of fatally shooting 53-year-old Terri LaManno, who was visiting her mother at a Jewish retirement home.

Miller shouted "heil Hitler" at television cameras as he was arrested after the killings.

Miller, also known as Frazier Glenn Cross, is a Vietnam War veteran from southwest Missouri who founded the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in his native North Carolina and later the White Patriot Party.

He was the target of a nationwide manhunt in 1987, when federal agents tracked him and three other men to a rural Missouri home stocked with hand grenades and automatic weapons. He was indicted on weapons charges and accused of plotting robberies and the assassination of the founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights group.



Frazier Glenn Miller Jr., also known as Frazier Glenn Cross Jr., is wheeled into the courtroom for a preliminary hearing Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014, at the Johnson County Courthouse in Olathe, Kan. Miller is charged with capital murder in the April 13 attacks outside the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City and a Jewish retirement home in nearby Overland Park, Kan.

(AP Photo/Tammy Ljungblad)

Man who killed wife, stepdaughter to be executed

BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP)

— A man is set to be executed Thursday for raping and murdering his 10-year-old stepdaughter 22 years ago, just minutes after he killed her mother.

Chadwick Banks, 43, is scheduled to die at 6 p.m. (2300 GMT) for the 1992 slaying of Melody Cooper, who was found on her knees naked from the waist down and her body

slumped on her bed. The body of her mother, Cassandra Banks, was nearby. Banks, who was 21 at the time, is serving a life sentence for his wife's murder. It would be the 20th execution carried out since Gov. Rick Scott took office in 2011, one fewer than under Jeb Bush, who presided over the most executions since capital punishment was reinstated in the state in 1979. Bush was governor for two terms, while Scott,

who was re-elected last week, is finishing his first. Most of the 19 people executed have been the perpetrators of some of the most horrific cases Florida's seen, and many of them left no doubt that the condemned committed the crime. Banks' attorneys have asked the federal courts to intervene, arguing Florida's lethal injection process violates the ban on cruel and unusual punishment and that he received

ineffective legal counsel. His lawyer, Terri Backhus, didn't return a phone message and email seeking comment Wednesday.

Banks was drinking and playing pool at a neighborhood bar on the night of the slayings. His wife left the bar and went to their home late that night. Banks left less than an hour later and went into their trailer and found his wife asleep. Without waking her, he shot her point-blank in the

head then went to his stepdaughter's room. After his arrest, he told investigators he had "spanked" Melody and molested her for about 20 minutes, but she didn't resist or try to get away. Evidence showed the assault was much more violent. Banks' blood was found under Melody's fingernails and on her pillow, and she had a bruise and cut on her face. She had also been sodomized and Banks' DNA was found inside her.



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Russian bomber patrols to reach Gulf of Mexico

V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's long-range bombers will conduct regular patrol missions from the Arctic Ocean to the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, the military said Wednesday, a show of muscle reflecting tensions with the West over Ukraine.

A statement from Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu came as NATO's chief commander accused Moscow of sending new troops and tanks into Ukraine — a claim quickly rejected by Russia.

Shoigu said the tensions with the West over Ukraine would require Russia to also beef up its forces in the Crimea, the Black Sea Peninsula that Russia annexed in March.

He said Russian long-range bombers will conduct flights along Russian borders and over the Arctic Ocean. He added that "in the current situation we have to maintain military presence in the western Atlantic and eastern Pacific, as well as the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico."

He said that the increasing pace and duration of flights would require stronger maintenance efforts and relevant directives have been issued to industries.

Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers were making regular patrols across the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans during Cold War times, but the post-Soviet money crunch forced the military to cut back. The bomber patrol flights have resumed under President Vladimir Putin's tenure.

The patrols have become

even more frequent in recent weeks with NATO reporting a spike in Russian military flights over the Black, Baltic and North seas as well as the Atlantic Ocean.

Earlier this year, Shoigu said that Russia plans to expand its worldwide military presence by seeking permission for navy ships to use ports in Latin America, Asia and elsewhere for replenishing supplies and doing maintenance. He said the military was conducting talks with Algeria, Cyprus, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, Seychelles, Vietnam and Singapore.

Shoigu said Russia was also talking to some of those countries about allowing long-range bombers to use their air bases for refueling. A senior U.S. military official said that Russia has not previously flown actual bomber patrols over the Gulf of Mexico, including during the Cold War.

Long-range bombers have been in the area before, but only to participate in various visits to the region when the aircraft stopped over night at locations in South or Central America. During the Cold War, other types of Russian aircraft flew patrols there, including surveillance flights and anti-submarine aircraft.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the flights publicly, also said that the pace of Russian flights around North America, including the Arctic, have largely remained steady, with about five incidents per year.

Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to call this a Russian provocation. □



A Russian Cossack stands on guard at the military base in Perevalsk, Eastern Ukraine. Tanks and other military vehicles towing heavy weapons are pouring over the border from Russia into eastern Ukraine, a senior NATO official said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Mstyslav Chernov)

NATO:

Russian troops crossing into Ukraine

DAVID M. HERZENHORN

© 2014 New York Times

KIEV, Ukraine - Tanks and other military vehicles towing heavy weapons are pouring over the border from Russia into eastern Ukraine. Nightly artillery battles in the region's biggest city, Donetsk, and reports of fighting around another regional capital. And now, sightings of the "green men," professional soldiers in green uniforms without insignia, the same type of forces that carried out the invasion of Crimea in the spring.

A senior NATO official confirmed Wednesday what Ukrainian military officials and monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe have been saying for days now: Russian troops and military equipment are crossing the border into Ukraine, seemingly preparing for renewed military action, though what exactly remains unclear.

The assertion drew stern and dismissive denials

from Moscow, which for months has denied any military intervention in eastern Ukraine, despite numerous reports to the contrary.

In light of the recent developments, Western officials finally seemed ready to acknowledge that a ceasefire agreement signed in September had fallen apart, and that the threat to peace in Europe had returned in a possibly more virulent form.

The official, Gen. Philip Breedlove, the supreme allied commander Europe of NATO said that it "is concerned about convoys of trucks taking artillery and supplies into east Ukraine from Russia."

"He said there were increased numbers of Russian forces in east Ukraine, training militants including in the use of sophisticated weaponry.

"Across the last two days we have seen the same thing that OSCE is reporting," Breedlove said at a news conference in Sofia, Bulgaria. "We have seen

columns of Russian equipment, primarily Russian tanks, Russian artillery, Russian air defense systems and Russian combat troops entering into Ukraine."

The full scope of the Russian incursion was not clear, he said.

"We do not have a good picture at this time of how many," he said. "We agree that there are multiple columns that we have seen; we agree with the OSCE reports. And as to their intent: I'm not sure."

Russia forcefully denied that any of its troops or equipment had crossed into eastern Ukraine, and a government spokesman dismissed Breedlove as unreliable and "alarmist."

"We have stressed repeatedly that there have never been and there are no facts behind the regular blasts of hot air from Brussels regarding the supposed presence of Russian armed forces in Ukraine," the spokesman, Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov told Russian news agencies Wednesday. □

Spanish leader calls Catalan secession vote a flop

CIARAN GILES

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Wednesday dismissed Catalonia's non-binding vote on secession from Spain as a failure, and prosecutors were considering legal action against Catalan officials for conducting the ballot.

Rajoy said that in addition to being illegal, few Catalans voted on Sunday, despite months of pro-inde-

pendence campaigning by authorities.

"Two out of every three Catalans didn't bother taking part," said Rajoy. "The pro-independence plan was for it to be a show of strength and (instead) it has shown us its weakness." Catalan officials say that out of 6.3 million potential voters, 2.3 million cast ballots, with 80 percent of them approving secession. The 6.3 million total included 1 million immigrant residents

and citizens aged 16 and 17, who normally would not be on the region's electoral census.

Catalan regional President Artur Mas nevertheless claimed the poll was a success, and on Tuesday he demanded talks with Rajoy about a possible official independence referendum similar to the one held in Scotland in September. The "no" voters won that referendum.

Rajoy said he was open to

dialogue but rejected having a preset outcome and opposed any interference with national sovereignty. He urged the Catalan government to accept reality and begin ruling for all Catalans, not just those who favor independence.

The non-binding referendum was held even though Spain's top Constitutional Court called for its suspension while considering the government's claim that it would be unconstitutional.

Prosecutors who are independent of the government are now studying possible legal action against Mas and other Catalan officials for having gone ahead with the vote, even though it was presented as non-binding.

Angry at Spain's refusal to give their wealthy region more autonomy, Catalan politicians have been pushing for an independence vote for two years.

Big welcome for Serb nationalist as he goes home

DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbian far-right leader Vojislav Seselj, accused of recruiting notorious paramilitary forces during the bloody Balkan wars, arrived home to a boisterous welcome Wednesday after U.N. war crimes judges approved his provisional release due to ill health.

Hundreds of cheering supporters, carrying banners reading "Seselj the Serb Hero" and chanting "Victory! Victory!" greeted him as he landed at Belgrade airport.

In neighboring Bosnia and Croatia, however, his release triggered outrage.

"The judges are mocking the victims," said Bakira Hasecic, head of a Bosnian association of women raped during the wars in the 1990s.

"It's a shame for the whole world to release Seselj without a verdict," said Ruzica

Barbaric, a rape victim from the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar, which was overrun by Serb troops, including Seselj's paramili-

taries, in 1991. "I personally felt on my skin what his people, these criminals, have done here ... and all of them were Seselj's pu-

pils."

Judges at the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, re-

leased Seselj so he could get medical treatment in Serbia on condition that he does not interfere with victims or witnesses and that he returns to the tribunal if summoned. Serbian doctors who visited the 60-year-old say he is suffering from colon cancer that has spread to his liver.

"I won the battle against the Hague tribunal, and that was my goal," Seselj told the crowd before the headquarters of his ultranationalist Serbian Radical Party. "The tribunal is a wounded globalist beast that is still destroying lives of distinguished Serbs."

The firebrand right-wing said his priority will be to oust Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic and Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić from power. The men were his close party allies but formed their own party while he was imprisoned and won the latest Serbian election.

In this 2009 photo, Serbian ultranationalist leader Vojislav Seselj is seen in court at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, Netherlands. Seselj arrived in Serbia to a boisterous welcome Wednesday after U.N. war crimes judges approved his provisional release due to ill health.

(AP Photo/Valerie Kuypers)

Docs rush to help after India sterilization deaths

KATY DAIGLE

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — A team of doctors rushed to central India on Wednesday after at least 12 women died and dozens of others fell ill following sterilization surgeries in a free, nationwide program aimed at limiting births in the world's second-most populous nation, officials said.

The case highlights the risks women face in reproductive health in a country

struggling with high population growth and widespread poverty.

A total of 83 women, all villagers under the age of 32, had the operations Saturday as part of the federal government's free sterilization campaign and were sent home that evening. But dozens later became ill and were rushed in ambulances to private hospitals in Bilaspur, a city in central Chhattisgarh state. By Wednesday morning, at

least 12 women had died, officials said.

The apparent cause of death was either blood poisoning or hemorrhagic shock, which occurs when a person has lost too much blood, state deputy health director Amar Singh said. Dozens of women were still hospitalized Wednesday, including more than a dozen in critical condition. The Chhattisgarh state government sent a plane to New Delhi overnight to pick

up a team of seven doctors to help treat the patients.

"Whatever treatment is being provided to the victims is good," said Dr. Anjan Trikha of the Delhi-based All India Institute of Medical Science, speaking with reporters Wednesday at one of the hospitals in Bilaspur. He declined to say anything more until the results of autopsies are released. India's government — long concerned about pervasive poverty among its

rapidly growing 1.3 billion population — performs millions of free sterilizations of both women and men who want to avoid the risk and cost of having a baby.

The vast majority of patients are poor women who are usually paid a one-time incentive fee of about \$10-\$20, or about a week's pay for a poor person in India. About 180 million people in the country still live on less than \$1.25 a day.

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Israel approves 200 new homes in east Jerusalem

JOSEF FEDERMAN
 Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli authorities gave preliminary approval Wednesday for construction of 200 new homes in a Jewish area of east Jerusalem, a move likely to ratchet up already heightened tensions in the city.

The decision came shortly before U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was to arrive in neighboring Jordan on a mission aimed at restoring calm in the Holy Land after weeks of unrest.

Much of the recent violence has stemmed from tensions surrounding a sensitive holy site revered by Muslims and Jews. The collapse of U.S.-brokered peace talks, Israel's bloody war last summer in the Gaza Strip and continued Israeli settlement construction in east Jerusalem have added to it.

Bracie Sprung, a spokeswoman for the municipality, said city officials approved 200 homes in the Ramot area. Sprung said the approval was just a preliminary stage of the planning process — meaning construction would be years away.

She also said city officials approved an additional 174 homes for construction in an Arab neighborhood.

Any Israeli construction for Jewish areas of east Jerusalem risks setting off a diplomatic firestorm — especially in the current fragile environment.

The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as their capital. The international community does not recognize Israeli sovereignty in the area and opposes settlement construction. More than 200,000 Jewish Israelis live in developments like Ramot that ring east Jerusalem to help cement Israeli control.

The Israeli announcement came before Kerry was to arrive in Jordan and meet King Abdullah II and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the situation in Jerusalem. There was no immediate plan for Kerry to travel to Israel.

Under a longstanding arrangement, Jordan holds custodial rights over Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, including the compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

Visits by Jewish worshippers to the site have raised concerns among Muslims that Israel is secretly trying to take over the site. The tensions have boiled over into violent demonstrations and deadly violence. Abbas accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week of leading the region toward a "religious war."

In the latest unrest, an attack against a mosque in a West Bank village earlier Wednesday ignited a fire that destroyed its first floor. Faraj al-Naasan, the mayor of the village of Mughayer, north of Ramallah, blamed Jewish settlers for the blaze.

Iraq's premier shakes up his military

HAMZA HENDAWI

RYAN LUCAS

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister on Wednesday ordered his first major shakeup of his military since taking office three months ago, relieving 26 army officers of their commands and retiring 10 others as a monitoring group said airstrikes by a U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group and other extremists in neighboring Syria have killed more than 860 people, including civilians, since they began in September.

The Iraqi military shakeup, which included the appointment of 18 new commanders, was ordered "as part of efforts to reinforce the work of the military on the basis of professionalism and fighting graft in all its forms," according to a statement posted on Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's official website.

"The aim is not to punish anyone, but rather to improve our military performance," al-Abadi later said in comments to senior army officers. A government official said the shake-up followed the findings of a probe ordered last month by al-Abadi on corruption in the military. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Under Iraq's constitution, al-Abadi, like Nouri al-Maliki before him, holds the post of General Commander of the Armed Forces. But it was al-Maliki, now a vice president, who had tightly controlled the military during his eight-year rule, with several elite units taking their orders directly

from him.

Al-Maliki, in the final months of his administration, had spoken at length about corruption in the military — particularly in the wake of an embarrassing rout of Iraqi forces which saw the Islamic State militants capture about a third of the country in a few months. He cited cases where sol-

troops and civilians remain common, particularly in Baghdad.

On Wednesday, three bombings in and around the Iraqi capital killed at least 17 people and wounded nearly 40, police and hospital officials said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but they all



Iraqi security forces patrol Jurf al-Sakhar, 43 miles (70 kilometers) south of Baghdad, Iraq. In Baghdad on Wednesday, Nov. 12, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi shook up the country's military, relieving 26 army officers from their command, retiring 10 others and appointing 18 new commanders.

(AP Photo)

diers paid half their salary to their commanders so they could stay away from their units and work a second job. He also relieved several top commanders from their command and ordered others investigated for dereliction of duty. Al-Abadi's move comes as government security forces and Shiite militias have largely halted the Islamic State militants' advance, even rolling them back from some areas with the help of coalition airstrikes. But heavy fighting still rages on multiple fronts, and attacks on government

bore the hallmarks of the Islamic State group's tactics. The deadliest bombing took place in the turbulent Youssifiyah district south of Baghdad, where a suicide car bomber hit an army checkpoint, killing six soldiers and wounding 16 people, including 10 civilians. Earlier in the day, a car bomb near a cluster of shops in western Baghdad killed six civilians and wounded 13 just minutes before a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a nearby police station, killing five policemen and wounding 10.

Cuba:**Dancers return home after stardom abroad****ANDREA RODRIGUEZ****Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — The young dancers in simple black leotards watched closely as the master demonstrated his leaps and pirouettes, every move reflected in multiples from the mirrored walls of the room. Having graced many of the world's most prestigious stages, this return to Cuba for Jose Manuel Carreno was an act of giving back. "I grew up in this school," said the former principle dancer of New York's American Ballet Theatre. "For me, to return to Cuba is to come home."

Carreno was among a dozen Cuban dancers who returned to the island last week to be part of the 24th International Ballet Festival of Havana, where several workshops were dedicated this year to Fernando Alonso, one of the founders of the National Ballet of Cuba who died last year.

While many dancers have returned to Cuba before, the festival marked the largest gathering of such dance stars living abroad. A recent relaxation of Cuba's laws on travel and income have made it easier for Cuban-born dancers to return, a trend also being seen with musicians and other artists.

The visit by dancers such as Carreno, who left Cuba to join the Royal Ballet of London in 1993 and now leads the San Jose Ballet in California, is a creative

boon for the National Ballet of Cuba whose dancers otherwise have limited exposure to emerging techniques and styles.

While the National Ballet is

It is considered one of the crown jewels of Cuban culture, prestige that also has placed it at the center of political attention.

If a dancer abandoned the

sion to work abroad made defection their only option to experience the wider ballet world firsthand.

"Cuba is our home, even for those who must pursue



Premier ballerina Viengsay Valdes, left, warms up at the National Cuban Ballet dance house in Havana, Cuba. The National Ballet of Cuba was founded in 1948 by Fernando Alonso and his wife, premier ballerina Alicia Alonso, who both rose to fame in the late 1940s in New York. It is considered one of the crown jewels of Cuban culture, prestige.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

"an incredible company," said Cuban-American art critic Octavio Roca, "this is one of the most conservative companies in the world. It has few new ballets, and little new choreography."

The company was founded in 1948 by Fernando Alonso and his wife, premier ballerina Alicia Alonso, who both rose to fame in the late 1940s in New York.

company to live abroad, it once would have been nearly impossible to return to the stage in Cuba. Those dancers who reached Miami would be pressed by the exile community there to publicly denounce the Cuban government.

Over the years, dozens of dancers deserted while on foreign tours. For many, the complicated process of trying to win Cuban permis-

their own path," said Roldano Salgado, the long-time dance partner of Alicia Alonso, now a professor at the King Juan Carlos University in Spain. "It is the foundation, regardless of the roads traveled."

Javier Torres, a star dancer with the Northern Ballet of Great Britain, said the spirit of their homeland shapes their art no matter how far they travel.

Senators optimistic Cuba to free contractor**M. WEISSENSTEIN****Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — Two U.S. senators expressed optimism this week that Cuba will free imprisoned American government contractor Alan Gross.

Sens. Jeff Flake, a Republican from Arizona, and Tom Udall, a Democrat from New Mexico, said they met with Gross for about two hours during a trip that included meetings with Cuban officials.

Gross was detained in De-

cember 2009 while working to set up Internet access as a subcontractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development. He was tried and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Gross' family has said he has threatened to commit suicide if he is not released by his birthday next May.

Asked about the possibility of Gross going free, Flake said: "I do feel we're closer there, one because what Alan Gross has said himself,

this is going to end one way or another."

Both senators added, though, that Cuban officials gave no indication any development was imminent.

Flake also cited as cause for optimism a report by The Associated Press on Monday that USAID is preparing internal rules that would effectively end risky undercover work in hostile countries.

The new policy follows an AP investigation this year

into work by the development agency, which set up a Twitter-like social network in Cuba and secretly sought to recruit a new generation of dissidents on the island while hiding ties to the U.S. government. The AP found USAID and its contractor concealed their involvement in the programs by setting up a front company, routing money through Cayman Islands bank transactions and fashioning elaborate cover stories.

In The Caribbean**Jamaica signs deal to search for oil and gas****KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)**

— Jamaica's petroleum firm has signed an agreement with a British oil company, clearing the way for oil and gas exploration in offshore blocks south of the island.

The "production sharing agreement" was signed with London-headquartered Tullow Oil, which has a 100 percent operating interest. The pact allows Tullow to start exploring 10 of Jamaica's 31 offshore blocks. The areas to be surveyed cover about 32,065 square kilometers (12,380 square miles). In a statement from the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica this week, Tullow exploration director Angus McCoss said a "great deal of geological and other essential work is required before any drilling can take place." Exploration work to search for commercially-viable wells of oil and gas could last up to 7 1/2 years.

Haiti migrants found stranded on remote key**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— U.S. authorities say they have found 70 Haitian migrants on an uninhabited island west of Puerto Rico. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency said in a statement this week that agents apprehended the group of 46 men and 24 females, including three minors, on Mona Island. Officials say the migrants are Haitians and were in decent health when they were found on Saturday. The rugged island lies in a treacherous passage between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Smugglers in the Dominican Republic sometimes ditch migrants there.

Chief patrol agent Ramiro Cerrillo says "smugglers leave migrants stranded in Mona making them believe they safely have reached Puerto Rico."

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Romar Trading Presents:

Notte Del Vino, at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco

WESTPUNT - Romar Trading Company N.V. welcomed sommelier Federico Trost to the island with a series of events designed to promote and publicize the already worldwide popular Santa Margherita wines. On his second night on the island, Trost hosted an event at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco pairing delectable signature dishes with some of Santa Margherita finest wines.

The elegant crowd gathered in the dining room enjoyed the Insalata Faro Blanco, mixed greens, almonds, cranberries and apples with a house dressing, escorted by Prosecco Santa Margherita. The Pennenette Alla Puttanesca, penne in fresh marinara sauce with garlic, basil, black olives and capers was chased by nicely chilled Pinot Grigio Santa Margherita and the Bistecca Al Gorgonzola alla Griglia, grilled sirloin steak smothered with a gorgonzola cheese sauce, with vegetables, went well with the classic Chianti Santa Margherita. For dessert, the restaurant's famed Tiramisu sponge cake soaked in



espresso, Marsala wine and rum, topped with chocolate and Italian mascarpone cheese, was washed down with Santa Margherita Rose.

Our images depict a much-enjoyed evening, co-hosted by wine artist Clive Faus-

tin, in collaboration with sommelier Federico Trost, Certified Wine Sommelier and the Export Manager for Santa Margherita Wines. The Santa Margherita winery counts eighty years of "actual" history, however, it has enjoyed more than



two centuries of business-activities in the Veneto! Founded in 1935 by Count Gaetano Marzotto Jr., it revolutionized wine drinking and succeeded in producing Italy's most favorite vino! Today, Santa Margherita wines are known for their strong consumer appeal and great accessibility along with their modern winemaking edge. They are available worldwide in over 70 countries and are poured in Aruba at all premier restaurants.



Kevin and Patricia Honored for Their Loyalty to Aruba!



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Costa Linda Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of ap-

preciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Patricia Fallon from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Kevin and Patricia are loyal members of the Costa Linda and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restau-



rants, and Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and Costa Linda is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing

the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Miriam Rodriguez and Mrs. Sharisa Tromp representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort and family members of the honorees. □

Joseph Brandon and Beverly White honored by ATA



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba at the Tropicana Resort. The

symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Joseph Brandon and Mrs. Beverly White from Yeadon, Pennsylvania. Joseph and Beverly are loyal members of the Tropicana Resort and they love Aru-



ba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, safety and being on Aruba and staying at the Tropicana is like being home for them and the wonderful staff of the resort is like family to them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Laura Vides representing the Tropicana Resort. □



At The Sopranos Piano Bar, enjoy Jen Porter live!

PALM BEACH - Chicago piano bar entertainer Jen Porter has returned to Aruba to perform through the end of November at The Sopranos Piano Bar at Arawak Gardens, J.E. Irausquin 368.

With music that flows from one song to the next, from style to style, Jen Porter has the ability to captivate any audience. Critics say her voice is "soulfully raucous" and that she is "without a doubt an artist to keep your eye on." She is compared to Sheryl Crow, Stevie Nicks and Janis Joplin in the same breath. With a voice that reaches out and grabs you, and a piano style that's captivating and melodic, her performance is always memorable.

Jen's powerful voice is attracting more attention than ever before. She has played many venues around Chicago, including The Cubby Bear, House Of Blues Hotel and Hard Rock Café. Her style is expansive and universal — and you can't help but love her powerhouse voice and smooth piano.

Jen performs a repertoire drawing on such diverse songbooks as those of Stevie Nicks, Aretha Franklin, Alanis Morissette, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Queen — as well as her own original compositions. Don't miss this performance force, as she continues on her unique path to wow audiences everywhere. Catch her act Sundays through Fridays beginning at 8pm. □

Lawrence and Marilyn Honored at the Marriott Surf Club



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club, as

Distinguished Visitors due to their 15th consecutive visit to Aruba.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to

guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. Marilyn Kramps.

Lawrence and Marilyn are loyal members of the

Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and

Aruba feels like a second home. The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority.

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Bowen Family Honored at the Casa del Mar Resort!

EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba at the Casa del Mar Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were George and Jill Bowen and Richard and Marie Bowen of Rhode Island. The Bowens are loyal members of the Casa del Mar Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, restaurants,



safety and of course their friends at the Casa del

Mar. The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska

Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with General Manager Bob Curtis. □

SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

Major League All-Stars' Matt Shoemaker of Los Angeles Angels delivers a pitch against Japan at Game 1 of their exhibition baseball games in Osaka, western Japan, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014. Japan won the game 2-0.

Associated Press

Maeda leads Japan over MLB All-Stars 2-0 in opener

JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

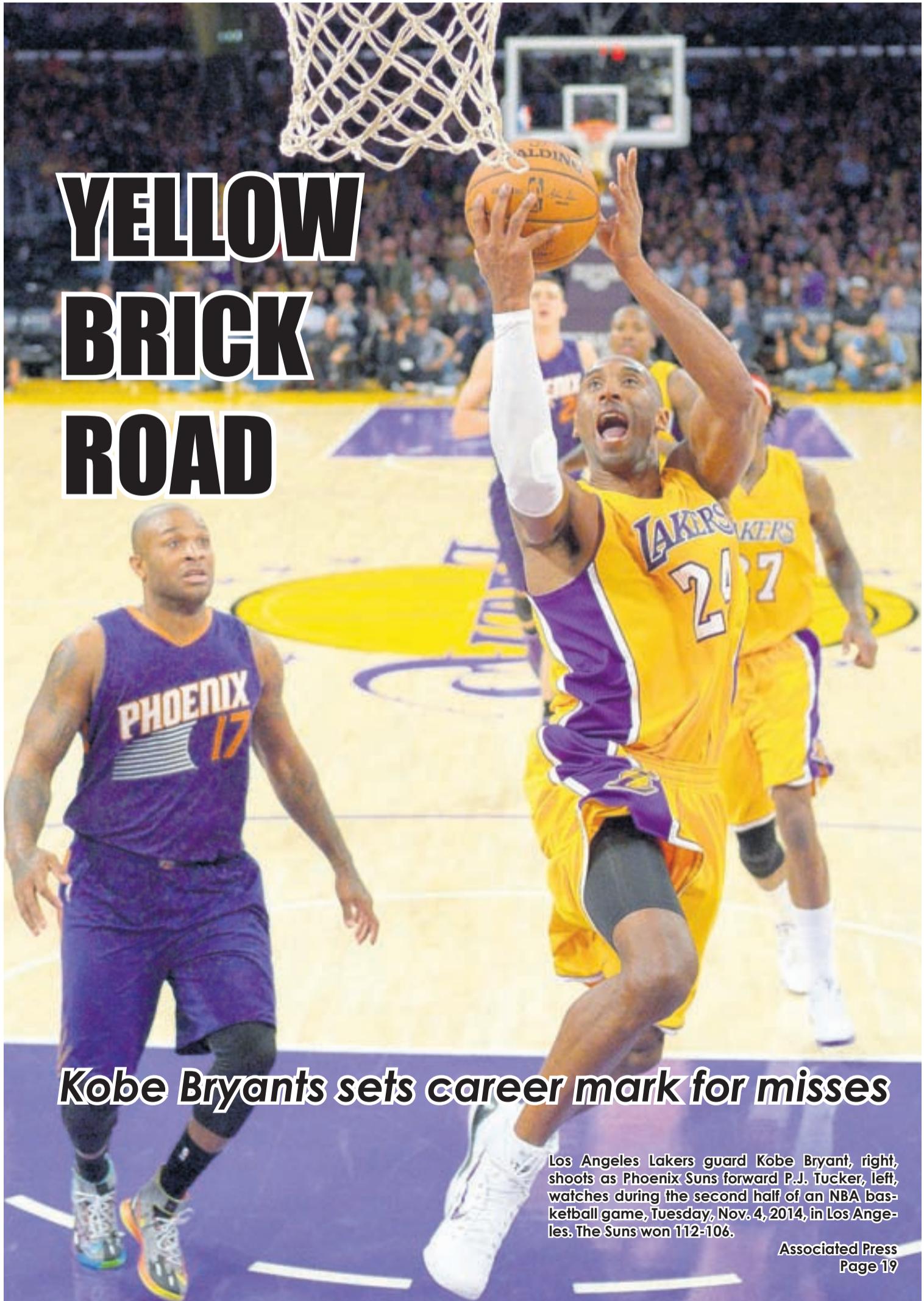
OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Kenta Maeda allowed two hits over five innings, combining on a three-hitter that led Japan over the Major League Baseball All-Stars 2-0 Wednesday in the opener of a five-game postseason tour.

Maeda, a 26-year-old right-hander from the Central League's Hiroshima Toyo Carp, struck out two and walked two before a crowd of 33,003 at the Kyocera Dome. He has expressed an interest in pitching in the major leagues and could be made available during the offseason.

"I am happy to finish my outing with a good result, especially in the first game of the series," said Maeda, who threw 71 pitches and got the win.

Continued on Page 22

YELLOW BRICK ROAD



Kobe Bryant sets career mark for misses

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right, shoots as Phoenix Suns forward P.J. Tucker, left, watches during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, in Los Angeles. The Suns won 112-106.

Associated Press
Page 19

Small wide receivers making big impact across NFL

WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The NFL's leading receiver — the one taken in the sixth round of the 2010 draft as an unknown, undersized project — would like to have a word.

"I'm not a little guy," Antonio Brown says.

Point out that at 5-foot-10 and 180 pounds (1.78 meters and 82 kilograms) the frenetic Pittsburgh Steelers star is hardly considered an NFL prototype, and Brown shrugs.

"I'm not a little guy," he repeats.

And the scouts who believed he was a fringe prospect at best four years ago, favoring the likes of Marcus Easley, Kerry Meier and Dezmon Briscoe, all 6-2 (1.88m) or taller, all no longer in the league?

"They made a mistake," Brown said with a smile. Freed by a crackdown on illegal contact in the secondary, bolstered by creative sets designed to get him in open space, and emboldened by a chip on his shoulder that never seems to go away, Brown is spearheading a mini-revolution at his position.

Scooch over Calvin Johnson. Make room Julio Jones. Hold up there AJ Green and Dez Bryant, you've got company.

Midway through the season, the NFL's most electric playmakers are the guys whose modest frames belie big-time numbers.

After 10 weeks of play, Brown's 70 receptions and 1,070 yards receiving are tops in the league and his eight touchdowns are tied for fourth. Brown's childhood buddy TY Hilton of the Indianapolis Colts — generously listed at 5-9 (1.76m) — is third in yards and sixth in yards per catch.

They're not alone. Seven of the top 11 players in yards receiving are under 6 feet (1.83m) tall.

Emmanuel Sanders (5-11, 1.81m) is developing into Peyton Manning's favorite target in Denver. Golden Tate (5-10, 1.78m) has become so explosive the Lions are soaring even with John-



New York Jets free safety Jaiquawn Jarrett (37) tackles Pittsburgh Steelers' Antonio Brown (84) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

son — Megatron himself — struggling to stay healthy. Julian Edelman (5-10, 1.78m) is a Wes Welker-type in New England. Washington is a mess but DeSean Jackson (5-10, 1.78m) and his not-a-typo 21.8 yards

they even have a job at all. "The little guys are coming back to rule the world," Smith said with laugh. "We're coming back (and) we're here to stay. That's the bottom line. That's what it's about. The big

league, turning every slant or quick screen into a showcase for his road-runner footwork regardless of where the Steelers are at on the field. While brawny tight ends like Rob Gronkowski and supersized



Denver Broncos wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders (10) catches a 32-yard touchdown pass in front of Oakland Raiders cornerback D.J. Hayden (25) during the second quarter of an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014.

Associated Press

per reception offer the beleaguered franchise and quarterback Robert Griffin III a glimmer of hope.

In Baltimore, a rejuvenated 35-year-old Steve Smith is the old-school boss in the midst of a late-career renaissance. The 5-9 (1.76m) veteran already has four 100-yard receiving games at a time when most guys at his position have evolved into part-time role players if

guys, you can throw it up to them but at the end of the day when you want to move the sticks, you have to throw it to the little guys. We move the needle."

They're doing more than that. They're finding the end zone with the same frequency as their larger — and largely higher profile — colleagues.

Brown may be the most dangerous player in the

wideouts like Demaryius Thomas remain matchup issues in tight spaces, Brown and his buddies are making an impact from goal line to goal line.

Brown, Sanders and Green Bay's Randall Cobb are in the top 10 in red zone receptions, a tribute to their uncanny ability to wiggle free when opposing cornerbacks try to get physical and the NFL's increased

policing of the pushing and shoving that goes on downfield.

"It's helping receivers in general," Cobb said. "But, definitely, with our quickness and being able to get separation from the defensive back at the top of routes, and them not being able to grab, has definitely helped."

Steelers cornerback Ike Taylor has spent a dozen seasons chasing receivers while watching fads come and go. Witnessing Brown's evolution from raw talent to unstoppable force is symbolic of the NFL's shifting the balance of power to the offense.

"Coordinators are putting small guys off the line, making sure you're not able to get your hands on them, using stacked positions, putting a receiver behind a tight end," Taylor said. "They're finding ways to maneuver these small guys and it's been working."

Clearly, there's still a place for receivers built like small forwards. Pittsburgh's offense didn't truly take off until 6-4 (1.93m) rookie Martavis Bryant was inserted into the lineup last month as the lanky yin to Brown's quicksilver yang.

Hilton and quarterback Andrew Luck are building the same rapport in Indianapolis that Brown shares with Ben Roethlisberger. Last week against the New York Giants, Luck floated a pass toward Hilton in the end zone that Hilton wrestled away from Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, a taller cornerback, for a touchdown.

The catch is a fitting symbol to the tenacity of smaller receivers who've spent most of their lives trying to carve out their own space in a sport that can't seem to get big enough fast enough.

That trumps any rules, Steelers wide receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey said.

"It's the dog in them," Heyward-Bey said. "They have the mindset that even though they're shorter, they think they're 6-3, 6-4 and they can go out there and make plays."

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NBA Capsules

Nowitzki becomes highest-scoring player born outside U.S.

The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki became the highest-scoring NBA player born outside of the United States, helping the Mavericks rally from 24 points down to beat the Kings.

Monta Ellis scored 10 of his 16 points in the third quarter, including a fadeaway 3-pointer at the buzzer after the Mavericks had taken their first lead in their 21st straight regular-season win at home against Sacramento.

Nowitzki passed Hakeem Olajuwon for ninth place on the all-time scoring list. The 7-foot German finished with 23,269,53 career points, seven more than the Nigerian-born former star of the Houston Rockets.

RAPTORS 104, MAGIC 100
TORONTO (AP) — Kyle Lowry scored 19 points, Terrence Ross had 17 and the Toronto Raptors erased an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Orlando 104-100 on Tuesday night, their ninth consecutive victory over the Magic.

DeMar DeRozan had 16 points and Lou Williams scored eight of his 14 in the fourth as the Eastern Conference leaders won their fifth straight game overall and improved to 7-1.

Ross grabbed the rebound on a potential tying jump shot by Tobias Harris with 2 seconds left. Toronto has won its first five home games for the first time since 2003-04.

Evan Fournier scored 24 and Harris had 23 points and 13 rebounds for Orlando, which lost its second straight.

GRIZZLIES 107, LAKERS 102
MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Mike Conley scored 23 points and the Grizzlies finally got a strong effort

from their struggling bench to beat the Lakers.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers (1-6) with 28 points, but shot 10 of 26 from the field and surpassed Boston Celtics great John Havlicek for the most missed field goals in an NBA career.

Reserve guard Wayne Ellington was not with the Lakers after his father was killed in Philadelphia on Sunday night.

Backup guard Beno Udrih had 16 points for Memphis. Courtney Lee scored 15 as six Grizzlies finished in double figures, including Zach Randolph with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Memphis has won 17 straight regular-season home games since a February loss to Dallas.

BUCKS 85, THUNDER 78

MILWAUKEE (AP) — O.J. Mayo scored 19 points and Brandon Knight added 16 as the Bucks held off a late Oklahoma City rally to beat the Thunder.

Reggie Jackson had 29 points, nine above his season average, for Oklahoma City. Serge Ibaka added 14 as the Thunder fell to 0-5 on the road.

The Bucks led by five after three quarters and extended their lead to as much as 11 in the fourth. Oklahoma City cut the lead to four on two free throws by Ibaka with 31 seconds left but got no closer.

TRAIL BLAZERS 102, HORNETS 100

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Damian Lillard had 29 points and the Trail Blazers trailed by as many as 23 points in the first half before rallying in the fourth quarter to beat the Hornets.

Charlotte's Gary Neal made a layup at the final buzzer that would have sent the game into over-



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki celebrates after a Sacramento Kings turnover in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014, in Dallas.

Associated Press

time, but the refs reversed the call after a review.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 25 points and 14 rebounds for the Blazers, who have won four of their last five games and improved to 5-1 at the Moda Center.

Al Jefferson scored 22 points, while Lance Stephenson had 14 points and 14 rebounds for the Hornets.

SPURS 113, WARRIORS 100
OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Tony Parker had 28 points and seven assists, and Kawhi Leonard scored 19 as the Spurs beat the Warriors.

The defending NBA champions played their aging Big Three — Parker, Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan — on consecutive nights to pull off California's most

difficult back-to-back. The Spurs rallied past the Clippers 89-85 on Monday in Los Angeles before cooling off one of the league's hottest teams in Oakland.

Klay Thompson scored 29 points, and Harrison Barnes had 22 points and eight rebounds for the Warriors, who have lost two straight after a 5-0 start under new coach Steve Kerr.

Djokovic cruises, Berdych bounces back at Finals

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic withstood an early assault from Stan Wawrinka before crushing the third-seeded Swiss 6-3, 6-0 at the ATP Finals on Wednesday to close in on the year-end No. 1 spot.

Djokovic will be guaranteed to finish top of the rankings for the third time in four years if he wins his final round-robin match at the elite tournament against Tomas Berdych.

Djokovic, who extended his unbeaten run indoor to 29 matches, now has two wins in Group A while Berdych posted his first victory against debutant Marin Cilic.

Wawrinka, who had dominated the Serb en route to his Australian Open triumph earlier this year, opened confidently, putting Djokovic on the defensive by dictating from the



Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych plays a return to Croatia's Marin Cilic, during their singles ATP World Tour tennis finals match at the O2 arena in London, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014.

Associated Press

baseline.

Helped by some superb backhands, he converted his third break point in a tight first game that lasted seven minutes, before then holding for a 2-0 lead after hitting an excellent cross-court pass.

But Wawrinka's momentum didn't last long. While Djokovic stayed focused,

his opponent's game suddenly went missing as the Serb won the next five games — a run that included 11 consecutive points. Wawrinka saved a set point in the eighth game with a good passing shot. But Djokovic never looked back after that, losing only seven points in the second set as Wawrinka was

overwhelmed by the sheer pace of the two-time defending champion.

Berdych, who lost his opening match to Wawrinka, recovered to stay in contention for a spot in the semi-finals by beating Cilic 6-3, 6-1.

Following his straight-sets loss, the Czech looked better against Cilic, hitting with accuracy and serving well on the big points.

"I was really trying to focus on my tennis and my game, trying to go point by point. I think today was more fighting and getting through. It's good to have a win and it always counts," said Berdych, who is competing at the season finale for the fifth time.

Berdych has never won his opening match of the round-robin stage, and never lost his second match.

"It's not my first year. I have the experience of losing the first match in the past

and I know how to come back. I think that was the biggest difference today," he said.

Berdych broke twice in the first set as the U.S. Open champion — who is now 0-2 — struggled with his serve.

Cilic, who has beaten Berdych twice this year at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, got off to the worst possible start as he dropped serve immediately. The hard-hitting Croatian produced some good winners but was inconsistent throughout, failing to convert any of his six break points.

In the second set, Cilic held to level at 1-1 but hardly fought as Berdych won five consecutive games to wrap up the match. Cilic, one of three debuts at the O2 Arena, was routed 6-1, 6-1 by Djokovic in his first match and has won only six games in two matches. □

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NHL Capsules

Rangers win 5-0, end Pens' run at 7

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mats

Zuccarello scored the first of New York's three first-period goals and Henrik Lundqvist made 33 saves for his third shutout of the season as the Rangers ended

Pittsburgh's seven-game winning streak with a 5-0 victory Tuesday night.

Martin St. Louis and Kevin Klein added goals in the first, Derick Brassard had a power-play tally in the second, and Rick Nash — who had two assists — scored a short-handed goal in the third for the Rangers, who broke a two-game losing streak.

Lundqvist earned his 53rd NHL shutout, extending his Rangers record.

The Penguins (10-3-1), who complete a five-game trip Friday in Toronto, hadn't allowed a power-play goal in 10 games, and their streak reached 39 kills before Brassard's goal.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 30 shots for Pittsburgh, which is 5-1-1 on the road.

DEVILS 3, WILD 1

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Tuomo Ruutu and Mike Cammalleri scored second-period goals that helped New Jersey end a

four-game skid with a win over Minnesota.

Travis Zajac sealed the victory with a power-play score into an empty net in the closing seconds. Jaromir Jagr had two assists.

Cory Schneider made 23 saves in his 16th straight start. He is the only NHL goalie to start every game this season.

Ryan Carter scored against his former team and Darcy Kuemper stopped 20 shots for the Wild, who lost their fourth straight.

ISLANDERS 6, AVALANCHE 0

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Nick Leddy and Anders Lee scored early, and Jaroslav Halak stopped 20 shots for his second straight shutout as New York beat Colorado to win its fourth straight.

Travis Hamonic, Nikolay Kulemin, Casey Cizikas and Ryan Strome also scored to help the Islanders get their first home victory since Oct. 25. New York extended its shutout streak to 181 minutes, 11 seconds, and has allowed just three goals in its last four game.

Leddy opened the scoring at 1:33 on a shot from the



Pittsburgh Penguins' Blake Comeau (17) falls over New York Rangers' John Moore (17) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

left point, and Lee added a power-play goal at 5:21 from in close for his second of the season.

Avalanche goalie Semyon Varlamov made 40 saves.

CAPITALS 4, BLUE JACKETS 2
WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin and Marcus Johansson each scored two goals as Washington extended Columbus' losing streak to nine games.

Braden Holtby stopped 24 shots, and Nicklas Backstrom and Andre Burakovsky had two assists apiece to help the Capitals win their third straight.

Cam Atkinson and David Savard scored for the injury-plagued Blue Jackets, who are 0-8-1 since Oct. 23. The nine-game skid equals the longest in franchise history; Columbus went 0-7-2 from Dec. 10-26, 2009.

The Blue Jackets played

a seventh straight game without top goalie Sergei Bobrovsky, who has a broken finger. Curtis McElhinney started in his place and fell to 0-5-1.

BLUES 6, SABRES 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jori Lehtera scored a natural hat trick for St. Louis with the game's first three goals, and Brian Elliott stayed unbeaten in his career against punchless Buffalo.

Jokim Lindstrom had two goals and David Backes also scored for the Blues. Jaden Schwartz assisted on all of Lehtera's goals, and Vladimir Tarasenko had assists on the first two. St. Louis' top line has combined for 25 points in the last six games.

Alexander Steen also had three assists and Kevin Shattenkirk added two.

Tyler Ennis scored his team-

leading fifth goal early in the third period for the Sabres, held to no more than one goal for the 11th time in 16 games. Buffalo has totaled three goals in three losses to St. Louis the last two seasons, all by Ennis.

Elliott finished with 28 saves to improve to 11-0-2 against Buffalo. The Sabres have scored an NHL-low 19 goals.

PANTHERS 4, SHARKS 1

SUNRISE, Florida (AP) — Aleksander Barkov scored and Roberto Luongo made 21 saves as Florida beat San Jose to snap a three-game slide.

Tomas Fleischmann, Derek MacKenzie and Jimmy Hayes also scored for the Panthers, who have won six of seven against the Sharks. Joe Thornton had San Jose's goal. Antti Niemi made 26 saves.

Lydia Ko, 17, wins LPGA Tour rookie of the year

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Lydia Ko has become the youngest player to win the LPGA Tour's rookie of the year award.

The 17-year-old Ko clinched the points-based award with three tournaments remaining on the LPGA Tour schedule. She

already has two victories, two runner-up finishes and nine other finishes in the top 10.

Laura Baugh was 18 when she won the LPGA Tour rookie of the year in 1973. Ko is No. 3 in the world ranking and No. 4 on the LPGA Tour money list with just

over \$1.5 million going into the Lorena Ochoa Invitational this week in Mexico. She's third in the Race to the CME Globe, which culminates next week in Florida with \$1 million going to the winner.

Ko, of New Zealand, was born in Seoul, South Korea.



This is an Aug. 20, 2014, file photo showing Lydia Ko answering questions at the Canadian Pacific Women's Open golf tournament in London, Ontario.

Associated Press

Showalter, Williams voted MLB Managers of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Baltimore's Buck Showalter was voted American League Manager of the Year for the third time on Tuesday, and Washington's Matt Williams won the National League honor following his first season as a big league skipper.

Showalter received 25 of 30 first-place votes and 132 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He kept up his pattern of winning the award once a decade following victories with the New York Yankees in 1994 and Texas in 2004.

"I won't be doing it 10 years from now," Showalter said on the MLB Network telecast.

The Los Angeles Angels' Mike Scioscia was second with four firsts and 61 points, and Kansas City's Ned Yost third with 41 points. Seattle's Lloyd McClendon followed with 29 points.

Showalter guided the Orioles to a 96-66 record and their first AL East title since 1997. Voting took place before the playoffs, where Baltimore swept Detroit in the Division Series and then was swept by Kansas City in the AL Championship Series.

Until the ALCS, the Orioles had not lost four in a



ABOVE: In this June 22, 2014, file photo, Baltimore Orioles manager Buck Showalter waves to the crowd during introductions for the Yankees' Old Timers' Day at Yankee Stadium in New York.

BELOW: In this June 21, 2014, file photo, Washington Nationals manager Matt Williams walks in the dugout in Washington.

Associated Press



row since May and had not dropped consecutive home games since June 28-29.

Showalter became the

third Orioles winner, following Frank Robinson in 1989 and Davey Johnson in 1997.

"It's such a great reflec-

tion on our organization," Showalter said. "It's pretty humbling."

Williams, who played under Showalter in Arizona from 1998-00, guided the Nationals to an NL-best 96 wins. He joined Houston's Hal Lanier (1986), San Francisco's Dusty Baker (1993) and Florida's Joe Girardi (2006) as the only men to win for their first seasons as big league manager.

Williams got 18 first-place votes and 109 points. Pittsburgh's Clint Hurdle, who earned the NL honor last year, was second with eight first-place votes and 80 points.

Bruce Bochy of the World Series champion San Francisco Giants was third with three firsts and 30 points.

Miami's Mike Redmond also got a first-place vote and finished fifth, behind St. Louis' Mike Matheny.

A hard-nosed player and five-time All-Star over 17 seasons,

Williams was coaching third base for the Arizona when he was hired by Washington.

Now he is the franchise's fourth winner, joining Johnson (2012) and Montreal's Buck Rodgers (1987) and Felipe Alou (1994).

"Not having the experience of being there be-

fore, but you can rely on folks," he said.

Williams credited his players for the award, saying, "These guys made my transition easy."

The Nationals had hoped to contend for the Series title in 2013 under Johnson and came into this season with high expectations. Some predicted they would take the crown — that can often dampen a manager's chances of winning this award.

Williams stressed fundamentals from the start of spring training,

and worked on creative defensive alignments. His biggest stamp might've come in late April when he benched young star Bryce Harper in the middle of a game for failing to run out a grounder.

The 48-year-old Williams kept the Nationals on track despite injuries to Doug Fister, Ryan Zimmerman and several other stars, and Washington won the NL East by a whopping 17 games, the biggest margin in the majors.

"It's a great moment for the guys," he said. "It takes a village."

The Nationals lost to the Giants in four games in the NL Division Series. □

MLB All-Stars

Continued from Page 17

"They made me throw a few more pitches than I wanted in the first inning, but I got my rhythm after that."

Robinson Cano singled in the first and Dexter Fowler doubled in the fifth.

Japan went ahead in the second when Seiichi Uchikawa singled off loser Matt Shoemaker leading off, advanced on Hayato Sakamoto's double and scored on Nobuhiro Matsuda's sacrifice fly.

Sakamoto singled starting off the fourth, and Matsuda grounded into a forceout and stole second. Tetsuto Yamada followed with an RBI single.

Shoemaker, the Los Ange-

les Angels pitcher who finished second to Chicago first baseman Jose Abreu in AL Rookie of the Year voting, allowed both runs and six hits in five innings, struck out five and walked one.

"It was very good pitching on their part tonight," said Boston's John Farrell, the MLB manager. "We got an opportunity in the first with a couple of men on, but Maeda really settled in and pitched effectively with an assortment of pitches for strikes."

Shohei Otani retired the side in order in the eighth. The 20-year-old right-hander is scheduled to pitch Game 5 before his home fans at Sapporo Dome.

"To see a guy at his age throw nearly 100 mph is impressive," Farrell said. "In one inning of work it



Japan's starter Kenta Maeda goes back to the dugout after inducing Major League All-Stars' Robinson Cano, left, to ground out to him in the third inning of Game One of their baseball exhibition game in Osaka, western Japan, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014. Maeda pitched five scoreless innings to help Japan beat the MLB All-Stars 2-0.

Associated Press

seemed like he had a lot of poise. He has a long, loose body with tremendous arm speed."

Yuji Nishino pitched the ninth for the save, giving up a one-out single to Evan Longoria before Justin Morneau lined out to Yamada, who stepped on first for a game-ending double play. The series, which includes games at Tokyo Dome and Cellular Stadium in Okinawa, marks the first MLB All-Star tour of Japan since 2006. The All-Stars beat a Japan split-squad team 8-7 in a warmup game Tuesday. □

YouTube adds subscription service to music mix

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

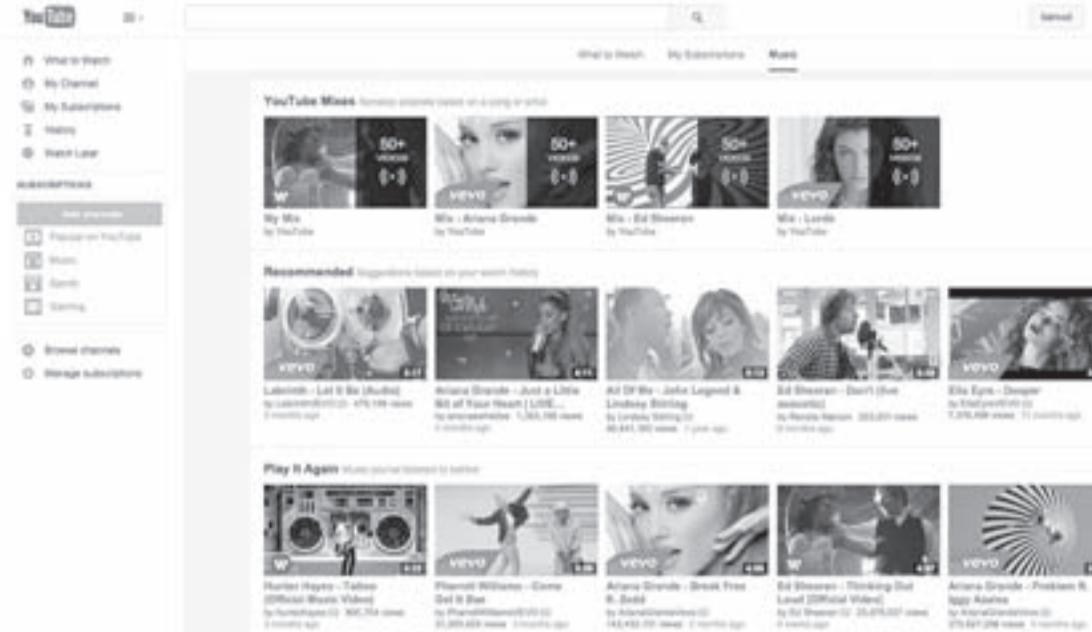
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is remixing the music on its YouTube video site with the addition of an ad-free subscription service and a new format designed to make it easier to find millions of songs that can still be played for free. The overhaul announced Wednesday includes "Music Key," a subscription service that has been speculated about for months while Google Inc. wrangled over the licensing terms with recording labels.

YouTube also is unveiling a new tab devoted exclusively to music on its mobile apps and website. This option is meant to make it easier for the video site's 1 billion users to find specific songs and entire albums, even if they aren't subscribers.

Music Key initially will be offered on an invitation-only basis in the U.S., United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland and Finland. The first batch of offers will be sent out next week to YouTube viewers with a history of watching a lot of music clips. Anyone interested in an invitation can request one at <http://YouTube.com/MusicKey>.

After a free six-month trial period, Music Key will temporarily charge \$8 per month before escalating to its standard price of \$10 per month. That's compa-



This product image provided by Google shows a new tab devoted exclusively to music on the YouTube website.

nable to other digital music subscription services sold by Spotify, Apple Inc.'s Beats and Google's own 18-month-old streaming service tied to its Android "Play" store. Music Key subscribers will also be able to stream through the Google Play service at no additional charge.

Besides removing all ads, Music Key also will give its subscribers two other perks: the ability to continue playing songs on mobile devices when its app is closed and the option to download tracks so they can be played without an Internet connection.

The offline music can only be played in Music Key's mobile app.

The subscription service is part of Google's effort to

mine more revenue from YouTube as the video site approaches the 10th anniversary of its inception. Google bought YouTube for \$1.76 billion in 2006, a price that some analysts questioned at the time of the deal because the service barely had any revenue and was drowning in copyright complaints about pirated clips of music videos, television shows and movies.

After Google took over, YouTube set up a more stringent system for blocking pirated content to ease the copyright owners. Recording labels now use the video site to help promote new songs and artists.

The ads running within those music clips have generated more than \$1 billion

for the performers and recording labels, according to Google.

YouTube is expected to sell \$7.2 billion in advertising this year, based on estimates from the research firm eMarketer. Google has never disclosed how much revenue flows through YouTube.

Music Key will be doing well if it attracts enough subscribers to generate \$500 million in revenue after its first year in business, said Mark Mulligan, a longtime industry analyst with Midia Research.

Most music subscription services own the rights to the same catalogues, making their ability to learn listeners' preference to create appealing playlists particularly important. Music

Associated Press

Key, though, will offer the unique distinction of being able to show artists perform songs in addition to the audio recordings.

Mulligan thinks that difference could help lure listeners away from Spotify, which says it has about 50 million users, including 12.5 million subscribers.

YouTube's redesigned library of free music could do even more damage to Spotify and other services, such as video site Vevo, where people flock to check out songs at no cost. Expanding the audience that listens to free music also would be profitable for Google because that would yield more opportunities to show ads — the main way that the Mountain View, California, company makes its money anyway.

"A cynic might say that Google is only doing this subscription service on YouTube so it would get the rights to do what it always wanted to do with the free service," Mulligan said.

Google's main goal "is to make the music experience better on YouTube," said Christophe Muller, who oversees the company's music partnerships.

The world's three largest music labels — Universal, Sony and Warner — all have reached licensing deals with YouTube as part of the new subscription services. □

Microsoft drops Nokia name with newest Lumia phone

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft has unveiled a cheaper smartphone, costing about 110 euros (\$135), as it eyes emerging and other low-cost markets for growth. The new model is the first Lumia smartphone under Microsoft's own brand name. The company has released a few Lumia models since it bought Nokia's phone business this year, but those models still carried the Nokia brand.

The Lumia 535 Windows smartphone will have a 5-inch screen, as measured diagonally. It comes with

5-megapixel front and rear cameras, which should snap sharper selfies than typical smartphones.

Microsoft is trying to expand its small market share worldwide with cheaper devices. To do that, it has cut manufacturing costs. For instance, camera and control buttons on many models can now be tapped on the screen rather than being physical buttons on the frame.

Despite the low cost, Microsoft said the new phone will offer the same Microsoft services that high-end



This product image provided by Microsoft shows the Lumia 535 smartphone.

Associated Press

phones do. That includes Skype video calls, Office apps and the virtual assistant Cortana.

As is common with phones for emerging markets, Microsoft is making a version with slots for two SIM cards so that people can switch between service providers more easily. In such markets, rates vary so much that many people have multiple accounts to take advantage of the best deals. The Lumia 535 is expected to go on sale this month. Microsoft didn't announce any U.S. plans. □

Wall Street edges lower after 5 record highs

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Big banks weighed on the stock market Wednesday, tugging major indexes back from record highs.

Regulators from the U.S., Switzerland and the U.K. fined five major banks a total of \$3.4 billion for conspiring to manipulate foreign-currency trading. The news drove down bank stocks

ment. But a slight dip following five days of record highs "is actually healthy," he said. "That's the sign of a good bull market. Going straight up every day would be reckless."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 1.43 point, a sliver of a percent, to end at 2,038.25.

The Dow lost 2.70 points to 17,612.20, while the Nasdaq composite rose 14.58

percent. Back in the U.S., J.M. Smucker dropped 4 percent, the worst loss in the S&P 500. The maker of Jif peanut butter, fruit jams, and other products trimmed its full-year profit forecast, saying higher prices for Folgers coffee have hurt sales. J.M. Smucker's stock fell \$3.70 to \$100.38. Susquehanna Bancshares soared 33 percent on news that the commercial

2 percent, to \$37.67. In a week light on major economic reports, investors were looking ahead to the government's monthly look on retail sales, due out Friday. Wall Street's economists expect the Commerce Department to say sales inched up 0.2 percent last month. Sales fell in September.

Sam Stovall, chief equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ, said that the upcoming report could reveal some of the benefits from lower gasoline prices. Over the past month, the national average has dropped 29 cents to \$2.92 a gallon, the lowest price in four years, according to the American Automobile Association. As a result, money that would have been spent on filling up the gas tank can be used to fill up shopping bags, right in time for the holiday shopping season. China's Shanghai Composite Index gained 1 percent after Hong Kong scrapped a daily limit on how much yuan residents can buy. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 touched a seven-year high and closed with a gain of 0.4 percent.

Prices for U.S. government bonds barely budged, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note holding tight at 2.36 percent. The bond market was closed Tuesday for Veterans Day.

In the commodity markets, the price of gold lost \$3.90 to settle at \$1,159.10 an ounce. Silver slid 6 cents to \$15.62 an ounce while copper ended unchanged at \$3.03 a pound.



Trader Robert Moran, foreground center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Big banks weighed on the stock market Wednesday, tugging major indexes back from record highs.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

in Europe and U.S. JPMorgan Chase fell more than 1 percent, the biggest drop in the Dow Jones industrial average.

"The fines from the watchdogs took some of the wind out of the market," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital Manage-

points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,675.13.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 closed at a record high for the fifth straight day.

Major markets in Europe closed with bigger losses. France's CAC 40 dropped 1.5 percent, while Germany's DAX lost 1.7 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 sank 0.2

bank BB&T agreed to buy Susquehanna for roughly \$2.5 billion. The deal, which still needs approval from shareholders and regulators, would give BB&T a wide reach across Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic states. Susquehanna Bancshares jumped \$3.22 to \$13.12. BB&T fell 66 cents, or

Global banks fined billions for rigging market

DANICA KIRKA
MARCY GORDON
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Traders with nicknames like the "Three Musketeers" and the "A-Team" plotted over Internet chat rooms to manipulate currency markets for years, profiting at the expense of clients — and then congratulating themselves for their brilliance — regulators said Wednesday, as they fined five banks \$3.4 billion.

Using profanity-laced banter, the traders coordinated their financial positions in the multi-trillion dollar currency market, securing profits for those inside their circles. "YESssssssssss," one of them wrote in a chat message. "Yeah baby" and "nice work gents....I don my hat," wrote others, according to documents of their exchanges.

Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, Royal Bank of Scotland, HSBC Bank and UBS agreed to settlements totaling almost \$3.4 billion with the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, U.K. Financial Conduct Authority and Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority. The British regulator said Barclays remains under investigation.

"Today's record fines mark the gravity of the failings we found, and firms need to take responsibility for putting it right," said Martin Wheatley, chief executive of the FCA. "They must make sure their traders do not game the system to boost profits."

Meanwhile, a U.S. Treasury Department agency announced it was fining three of the biggest U.S. banks — JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp. and Citigroup Inc. — a total \$950 million for failing to prevent misconduct in their foreign exchange trading operations.

Some \$5.3 trillion changes hands every day on the global foreign exchange market, with 40 percent of trades occurring in London.

BB&T expanding with Susquehanna buy

NEW YORK (AP) — BB&T, a commercial bank based in North Carolina, is buying Susquehanna Bancshares in a deal that will broaden the bank's reach into the Mid-Atlantic region.

News of the deal, which is worth \$2.5 billion in cash and stock, sent Susquehanna's stock price soaring. Based on Susquehanna's closing price Tuesday, BB&T is paying a 39 percent premium.

Shares of Susquehanna, which is based in Lititz, Pennsylvania, jumped 33 percent to \$13.15. BB&T's shares fell 2 percent to \$37.55.

BB&T has been expanding recently, and the deal announced Wednesday is one of the largest deals in the banking sector since the financial crisis. Susquehanna has assets of approximately \$18.6 billion, compared with \$187 billion

for BB&T. The bank will create three new banking regions that oversee markets in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, while the Baltimore region will be brought into the areas Susquehanna operates.

Susquehanna executives will run those regions and the bank's Chairman and CEO, William Reuter, will take a seat on BB&T's board.

Susquehanna has 245 locations in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and West Virginia.

BB&T will take a pre-tax merger and integration charge of \$250 million, but expects \$160 million in annual savings.

The deal has been approved by the boards of both companies, but still requires a nod from Susquehanna shareholders and regulators.

China's online holiday sets record \$9.3B sales

DIDI TANG

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's largest Internet retailer rang up more than \$9 billion during the country's biggest online shopping holiday, smashing last year's figure to set a record for a single day of sales.

Analysts said the "Singles Day" figures from e-commerce giant Alibaba show a continuing shift to online shopping over brick-and-mortar stores at a time of slowing economic growth in China.

Singles Day was invented by Chinese college students in the 1990s as an anti-Valentine's Day when people could buy something for themselves. It was set for Nov. 11 because of the date's four "ones."

But Hangzhou-based Alibaba Group, which is known for its retail sites Taobao and Tmall.com, turned it into a day of online shopping for all with bargain deals. Other Chinese online retailers also have followed suit.

The record sales this year

are "more indicative of changes in consumer habits rather than a bellwether of China's overall economy," said Derek Xin, a Beijing-based retail analyst at Hisend Research.

China's economy, the world's second largest, grew 7.3 percent last quarter, the slowest pace in five years.

In 2012, Alibaba posted sales totaling \$3 billion on the Singles Day, surpassing Cyber Monday in the United States. Last year's total was \$5.71 billion.

Alibaba Group announced this year's record sales of 57.1 billion yuan (\$9.32 billion) for Tuesday shortly after midnight. During Singles Day, a giant screen at the company's headquarters shows the sales figures updating in real time.

Including other online retailers such as JD.com, total sales Tuesday were an estimated 67 billion yuan, said Jiang Jianlin, senior market analyst at IDC China.

He said the Internet has been a particular draw for the spending power of

people in China's second- and third-tier cities that aren't well serviced by traditional retailers.

Online shopping has kept retail sales robust despite the slowdown in the country's economy, said Liu Yunchun, professor of economics at Renmin University in Beijing.

"It has changed the commercial ecology and drastically lowered costs," Liu said. "Online shopping will continue to grow at fast speeds and could boost China's future economy." □

Macy's cuts outlook in sign of discounts to come

A. D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Macy's cut its profit outlook after a sales shortfall in its latest quarter, suggesting that shoppers can expect another discount-laden holiday shopping season.

Still, the department store's third-quarter earnings beat Wall Street's estimate, and shares rose.

Macy's, a standout among its peers throughout the economic recovery, is the first of the major retailers to report third-quarter results. How much shoppers spent during the period, which runs from August through October, hints at how much they'll be buying during the upcoming holiday shopping season.

While gas prices are low and unemployment has dropped, retailers are still contending with shoppers'



With the Empire State building in the background, the Macy's logo is illuminated on the front of the department store in New York. Macy's reported quarterly financial results on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

stagnant wages. And consumers are spending money on health care, gadgets and cars instead of fashion.

Several chains, including J.C. Penney and Kohl's, have cautioned that fall sales were weaker than

they expected. Those companies plus Wal-Mart and Target are reporting results this week and next.

"We have found that we are not immune to the weaker-than-anticipated consumer spending," Karen Hoguet, Macy's chief financial officer, told analysts during a conference call Wednesday.

But Hoguet said Macy's remains optimistic about what it can control, from pushing trendy merchandise to offering new shopping apps.

"It may be an understatement to say that we have our accelerator pedal pushed to the floor this holiday season," Hoguet said. Macy's, which operates upscale Bloomingdale's, has benefited from its focus on tailoring merchandise to local markets. It's also trying to create a more seamless experience for shoppers who are going back and forth from stores to websites. □

Yahoo buys digital ad service BrightRoll for \$640M

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo is buying digital video advertising service BrightRoll for \$640 million in the Internet company's latest attempt to boost its revenue after years filled mostly with financial futility. The acquisition announced this week marks Yahoo's first major purchase since reaping a \$9.4 billion windfall in September by selling part of its stake in a rapidly rising Internet star, Chinese e-commerce service Aliba-

ba Group Holding Ltd. Yahoo Inc. has promised to distribute at least half of the \$6.3 billion in after-tax proceeds from the Alibaba stake sale to its shareholders. That gives CEO Marissa Mayer the option of spending the rest on acquisitions that could enable the Sunnyvale, California, company to recover some of the ground that it has lost to rivals Google Inc. and Facebook Inc. in the booming online ad market. BrightRoll, based in San Francisco, helps to auto-

matically place ads in videos displayed on personal computers and mobile devices. Since its founding in 2006, it has built relationships with most of the biggest advertisers in the U.S., helping the service generate more than \$100 million in annual revenue, according to Yahoo.

That makes the BrightRoll deal look quite different from the only larger acquisition that Yahoo has made since hiring Mayer as its CEO in July 2012. Mayer bought online blogging ser-

vice Tumblr for \$1.1 billion last year, even though that New York company hadn't yet proven it could make money.

In contrast, BrightRoll already is profitable, according to Yahoo. Meanwhile, Tumblr isn't expected to bring in \$100 million in annual revenue until next year, at the earliest.

"Acquiring BrightRoll will dramatically strengthen Yahoo's video advertising platform," Mayer predicted in a Tuesday blog post. Investors didn't seem to be

as enthusiastic about the deal. Yahoo's stock dipped 3 cents to \$49.02 in extended trading.

If Mayer is right, BrightRoll could help Yahoo reverse a long-running decline in display advertising — a category consisting of video pitches and other marketing with a visual element. Through the first nine months of this year, Yahoo's display advertising revenue had declined 4 percent from last year to \$1.2 billion after subtracting commissions. □

Mutts



6 Chix



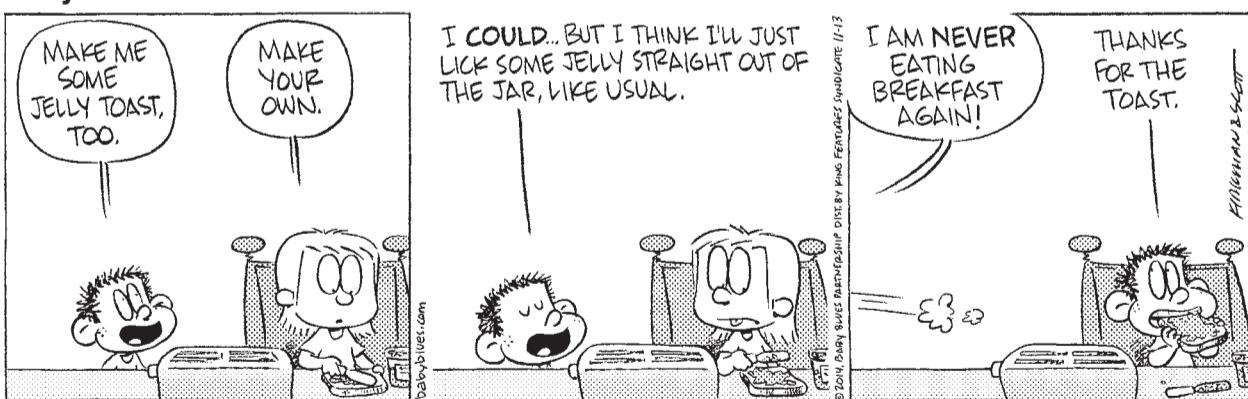
Blondie



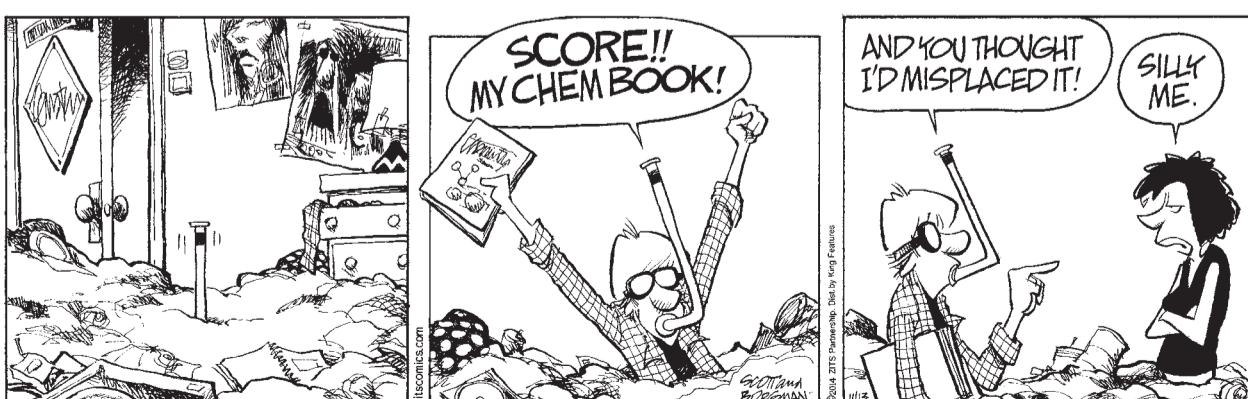
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1	7	2	9	6					
5										2		
8				3		1				4		
6					9					7		
7						5	4			3		
4										5		
	7	6	1	8	4							

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	9	8	4	2	7	3	5	6				
2	7	5	6	9	3	8	4	1				
6	4	3	8	5	1	9	2	7				
3	1	7	9	4	2	6	8	5				
9	5	2	3	8	6	1	7	4				
4	8	6	1	7	5	2	3	9				
8	2	4	5	1	9	7	6	3				
7	3	1	2	6	4	5	9	8				
5	6	9	7	3	8	4	1	2				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	9	8	4	2	7	3	5	6				
2	7	5	6	9	3	8	4	1				
6	4	3	8	5	1	9	2	7				
3	1	7	9	4	2	6	8	5				
9	5	2	3	8	6	1	7	4				
4	8	6	1	7	5	2	3	9				
8	2	4	5	1	9	7	6	3				
7	3	1	2	6	4	5	9	8				
5	6	9	7	3	8	4	1	2				

ACROSS

- 1 Hooting birds
- 5 Movie award
- 10 ___ up; provide with support
- 14 Deed of derring-do
- 15 Cheek paint
- 16 ___ off; galloped away
- 17 Impartial
- 18 Little misses
- 19 Primates
- 20 Opposite of departure
- 22 Most uncanny
- 24 Barbie's beau
- 25 Liver spreads
- 26 Valuable thing
- 29 Traffic tie-up
- 30 Goatee, for one
- 34 Incisions
- 35 "I've ___ it!"; cry of frustration
- 36 Bother
- 37 Spoil
- 38 Aware; heedful
- 40 "___ Maria"
- 41 Steers clear of
- 43 Hit a tennis ball in a high arc
- 44 "Break ___!"; well-wisher's cry to an actor
- 45 Sutured
- 46 Peg for Palmer
- 47 Wallet items
- 48 Loses color
- 50 Armed conflict
- 51 Not as large
- 54 Adenoids' neighbor
- 55 Etna's output
- 59 Passion
- 61 Hula ___; 1950s twirling toy
- 62 Way out
- 63 Lends
- 64 "___ boy!"; new parents' cry
- 65 Broad
- 66 Rendezvous
- 67 ___ out; faint
- 11 Part of a pulley
- 12 Lofty poems
- 13 Nuisance
- 21 Nov. honoree
- 23 Nonconformist
- 25 Canoe oars
- 26 High points
- 27 Sophisticated
- 28 "Turkey in the ___"
- 29 Dec.'s follower
- 31 ___ costs; by any means necessary
- 32 ___ in; enjoy
- 33 Sediment; last remaining part
- 35 ___ and hers
- 36 Tavern

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/13/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

O	W	N	I	R	I	S	H	S	P	S	N	
L	E	I	S	M	O	T	T	O	P	A	T	
D	A	L	E	B	O	S	U	N	R	I	O	
R	E	P	R	I	M	A	N	D	E	R	R	
T	U	B	S	U	P	A						
C	H	E	S	E	P	A	R	A	D	I	S	
E	A	R	T	H	S	A	G	A	D	N		
A	N	S	G	A	L	E	S	W	I	L	D	
S	K	I	W	A	G	E	S	G	R	O	V	
E	Y	E	L	I	N	E	R	O	D	E	T	
E	G	G										
C	U	B										
U	P	O										
F	O	R										
F	R	E										

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11/13/14

- 38 Military award
- 39 Enemy
- 42 Let the air out of
- 44 Blimp
- 46 Extreme fear
- 47 Embargo
- 49 Passed out cards
- 50 Most awful
- 51 Killed
- 52 Calf-length skirt
- 53 Gung ho
- 54 Heavy weights
- 55 Smidgen
- 56 Bereavement
- 57 Hot tubs
- 60 Dennis or Doris

Energy Dept: Gas to average under \$3 in 2015

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The average price of gasoline will be below \$3 a gallon in 2015, the Energy Department predicted Wednesday. If the sharply lower estimate holds true, U.S. consumers will save \$61 billion on gas compared with this year. Economists say lower gasoline prices act like a tax cut, leaving more money for consumers to spend on other things. Consumer spending is 70 percent of the U.S. economy.

The department's Energy Information Administration predicted in its most recent short-term energy outlook that drivers will pay \$2.94 per gallon on average in 2015, 45 cents lower than this year.

Based on expected gasoline consumption, that's a savings of \$60.9 billion.

Drivers are now paying \$2.92 per gallon on average across the nation, according to AAA, but late fall is often when the price of gas hits its low for the year. The EIA is now saying that these prices aren't just a low point, but instead will be the norm next year.

The national average has fallen for 48 straight days and is at its lowest point since December of 2010. That was also the last full year when the average came in below \$3 a gallon. EIA administrator Adam Sieminski attributed the lower pump prices to lower



Gas station prices are posted for passing motorists in Augusta, Ga. The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration predicts in its most recent short-term energy outlook, released Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014, that drivers will pay \$2.94 per gallon on average in 2015, 45 cents lower than this year. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

prices for crude oil and weak fuel demand. The EIA lowered its forecast for

global crude oil for next year by \$18 a barrel to \$83.□

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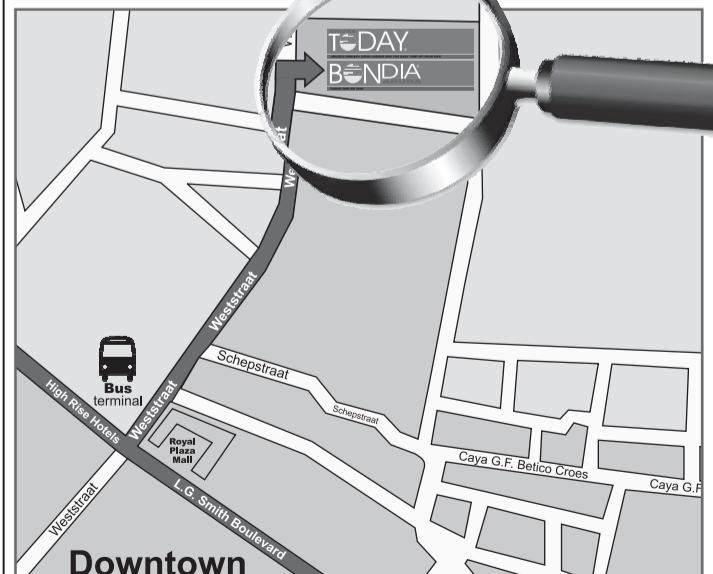
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37/38	548	\$5750
19	547	\$5000

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vr.realty@mac.com

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Cosmic 1st: European spacecraft lands on comet

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

DARMSTADT, Germany

(AP) — Hundreds of millions of miles from Earth, a European spacecraft made history Wednesday by successfully landing on the icy, dusty surface of a speeding comet — an audacious first designed to answer big questions about the universe.

The landing on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko required immense precision, as even the slightest error could have thrown the spacecraft far off course and imperiled the mission. In the end, the touchdown of the Philae lander appeared to be almost perfectly on target, said Paolo Ferri, head of mission operations for the European Space Agency. "Everyone cried," he told reporters at mission control in Darmstadt, Germany.

Scientists at the agency first had to sweat through a tense seven-hour countdown that began when Philae dropped from the agency's Rosetta space probe as both it and the comet hurtled through space at 41,000 mph (66,000 kph).

During the lander's descent, scientists were powerless to do anything but watch, because its vast distance from Earth — 500



From left, French Education Minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) president Jean-Yves Le Gall, 2nd left, French President Francois Hollande, center, with French astrophysicist Francis Rocard look at a model of Rosetta lander Philae as they visit the Cite des Sciences at La Villette during a broadcast of the Rosetta mission as it orbits around comet 67P Churyumov-Gersimenko in Paris, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014.

Associated Press

million kilometers (311 million miles) — made it impossible to send instructions in real time.

Finally, at 1603 GMT (11:03

a.m. EST), the agency received a signal that the washing machine-sized lander had touched down on the comet's icy surface. While further checks were needed to ascertain the state of the 220-pound (100-kilogram) lander, the fact that it was resting on the surface of the comet was already a huge success, the highlight of Rosetta's decade-long mission to study comets and learn more about the origins of these celestial bodies. Scientists have likened the trillion or so comets in our solar system to time capsules that are virtually unchanged since the earliest moments of the universe.

"By studying one in enormous detail, we can hope to unlock the puzzle of all of the others," said Mark McCaughrean, a senior scientific adviser to the mission.

The mission will also give researchers the opportunity to test the theory that comets brought organic matter and water to Earth billions of years ago, said Klim Churyumov, one of the two astronomers who discovered the comet in 1969. Rosetta and Philae will ac-

company the comet as it races past the sun and becomes increasingly active in the rising temperatures. Between them, they will use 21 different instruments to collect data that scientists hope will help explain the origins and evolution of celestial bodies, and maybe even life on Earth.

Ferri said there was no time to celebrate, because the lander had only enough battery power to operate for up to 64 hours. After that it will have to recharge, using solar panels to eke out an extra hour of operations each day. □

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City of London makes Morgan Freeman a freeman



U.S. actor Morgan Freeman poses for pictures after he was made a freeman of the City of London, at the Guildhall in London, England, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The City of London has given Oscar-winning actor Morgan Freeman the Freedom of

Jackson exiting 'American Idol' after 13 years

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fox and the producers of "American Idol" say Randy Jackson is leaving the show after 13 seasons. In a statement Tuesday, the network and producers call Jackson a key part of the singing contest and say he'll be welcomed back as a visitor.

Phone and email requests to his publicist seeking comment were not immediately returned.

Jackson, Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul made up Idol's original judging panel. Jackson served as a judge for 12 seasons, with "dawg" becoming his trademark word while assessing contestants.

Jackson moved to the role of mentor this year. His departure leaves host Ryan Seacrest as the only original cast member.



In this Feb. 20, 2014 file photo, Randy Jackson attends FOX's "American Idol XIII" finalists party at Fig & Olive Melrose Place in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

"American Idol" is set to return in January with judges Jennifer Lopez, Harry Connick Jr. and Keith Urban. □

Whitney Houston hologram? You will have to wait

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans hoping for a Whitney Houston hologram might have to wait.

Pat Houston, the late singer's sister-in-law and head of her estate, says she's had offers to debut a Houston hologram, but she won't sign on just yet.

"We did Madame Tussauds, the wax museum, with Whitney's figures and that was a little scary to stand there and take photographs next to these figurines of Whitney. It's kind of spooky," Pat Houston said in a recent interview.

"I don't know how I would feel about (a hologram) and certainly I've been approached to do a project of that magnitude, and I said, 'No.' But who knows what the future holds," she added. "I mean, it's just been only two and half years. Maybe down the road."

Whitney Houston died in 2012 at age 48. Acts from Michael Jackson to Tupac Shakur have been presented in hologram form.

Fans will get to see some of Whitney Houston with Monday's release of "Whitney Houston Live: Her Greatest Performances," the pop singer's first live album, released on DVD and CD.

Pat Houston said unlike other musicians who have



In this Feb. 13, 2011 file photo, singer Whitney Houston performs at the pre-Grammy gala & salute to industry icons with Clive Davis honoring David Geffen in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

died and released posthumous albums, there aren't many Whitney Houston songs waiting to be released.

"I wish she had tons of songs that were out there that she had recorded ... but we have a few surprises to come along in the years to come," she said.

An upcoming project starring Whitney Houston on Lifetime is one the family is not involved with, Pat Houston said. Angela Bassett is directing the TV film.

"Angela Bassett did not come to the family, but

Lifetime did and we said, 'No.' It was our option to do it or not, and we chose not to," said Pat Houston, who starred in a Lifetime reality show with the Houston family for one season months after Whitney Houston died. "It's just not the right time and we just weren't interested right now for any type of biopic to come out on Whitney."

"Nothing negative to say," she added. "They're doing what they do, and people will always do what they want to do ... and hey, we just keep it moving." □

Robert Plant quashes Led Zeppelin reunion claims

LONDON (AP) — Robert Plant says there's no truth to reports that he turned down a lucrative offer from Virgin boss Richard Branson to play Led Zeppelin reunion shows.

A statement from Plant spokesman Ken Weinstein says the singer "has not been in receipt of any offers in recent months" about Led Zeppelin gigs, and hasn't met or communicated with Branson in 50 years.

Wednesday's statement said Plant was "disappointed with any confusion this current fabricated story may bring."

Citing a Led Zeppelin song, Branson said in a blog post he was "dazed and con-

In this file photo dated Thursday, June 5, 2014, Robert Plant performs with The Sensational Space Shifters on stage during a concert at Morocco's annual Mawazine Music Festival in Rabat, Morocco.

Associated Press



fused" by reports he had offered the band 500 million pounds (\$800 million) to reform. □

MTV's 'Rebel Music' highlights Native Americans

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When MTV's "Rebel Music" debuted last year, the globe-trotting documentary series searched out passionate young artists driving change in hotspots including Egypt and Afghanistan. This time around, it stays close to home with Native American activists. There's Frank Waln, a hip-hop artist seeking to protect the environment and his heritage, and pop musician Inez Jasper, demanding attention for women's rights and safe harbor from violence.

Musicians Nataanii Means, son of American Indian Movement activist Russell Means, and Mike Clifford, working together to foster hope and fight suicide among Native American youngsters, also are featured in the series, debuting 4 p.m. EST Thursday on MTV's Facebook page.

"The music is my shield and my weapon," Waln, a Sioux Indian from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, says with touching determination in the film.

"Rebel Music: Native America" will air later this week and next on channels including MTV2 and mtvU, and will be made available free for downloading or streaming on iTunes, Hulu and other platforms. It's the first long-form MTV program to debut on Facebook, the network



This image released by MTV World shows Native American musicians and activists, from left, Mike Cliff, Frank Waln, Inez Jasper, and Nataanii Means from MTV World's documentary series "Rebel Music: Native America," debuting on MTV's Facebook page on Thursday, Nov. 13 ahead of broadcast debuts on Viacom channels MTV2, mtvU, Centric and EPIX.

Associated Press

said.

The episode — premiering well before season two begins next year in order to coincide with Native American Heritage Month — surprised even the executive behind it.

"I have never been so moved and inspired as I was by this production," said Nusrat Durrani, general manager of MTV World and creator of the "Rebel

Music" series. "As soon as we started the research, we knew we have a very compelling story right here in our own backyard."

The film does not shrink from touching on the harsh realities Native Americans face, including suicide and poverty rates greater than the general U.S. population, he said. But that is "baseline," as Durrani put it.

"What we're trying to tell

here is, 'Look at these young people and how they're overcoming their own circumstances and how they're empowering themselves to (bring) change,'" he said.

Native American filmmaker Billy Luther, the documentary's co-director, found the young artists to be as intrepid as they are impressive: One started making beats on an old Casio, he

said, and others searched out in the community what they lacked at home.

"These kids aren't necessarily victimized or complaining about what they don't have.

They're using all their resources to make the change and create the art they want to," Luther said. The scope of their artistry also proves an eye-opener.

"Usually when you think of native music, you think of drums and flutes," the filmmaker said. "You don't necessarily think of native artists or musicians doing hip-hop, punk or country, but they're out there. ... I think this is going to change what people think of in native music."

The response to a preview posted online has been heartening, Durrani and Luther said, with more than 1.5 million views.

"Rebel Music" will return in March, featuring stories from Iran, Myanmar, Senegal, Turkey and Venezuela, and Durrani is eager for viewers to discover it and, he said, be heartened.



'Big Bang Theory' actress Carol Ann Susi dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The actress best known for voicing the unseen Mrs. Wolowitz on the TV comedy "The Big Bang Theory" has died.

Carol Ann Susi's agent, Pam Ellis-Evanes, said the actress died in Los Angeles on Tuesday after a brief battle with cancer. She was 62.

The veteran character actress has

made numerous guest appearances on TV shows since the 1970s. On the "The Big Bang Theory," she wasn't seen on camera as the mother of Simon Helberg's character, Howard, but her character's loud voice with a Brooklyn accent was instantly recognizable.

The executive producers of the CBS sitcom say Susi was a beloved member of the "Big Bang Theory" family, and they praised her "immense talent and comedic timing."

Susi is survived by her brother, Michael Susi, and his wife, Connie.

This undated image provided by Warner Bros. Television shows a headshot of actress Carol Ann Susi.

Associated Press

The Legacy of Fear



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

Twenty-five years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the biggest surprise is how badly most of the post-communist nations have done since. There was a general expectation back then that most of these countries would step out from tyranny and rejoin the European club of prosperous nations. Most of us did not appreciate the corrosive power of distrust and how long it would take to heal the mental scars caused by it.

Branko Milanovic, an economist at the City University of New York, measured the wreckage in a recent essay on his blog, Global Inequality. He looked at the growth rates of post-communist countries and broke them down into four groups.

In the bottom group are basket-case nations that haven't even recovered the level of real income they had in 1990, as measured by real GDP per capita. These failures include Ukraine, Georgia, Bosnia, Serbia and others - about 20 percent of the post-communist world. "Basically," Milanovic writes, these "are countries with at least three to four wasted generations. At current rates of growth, it might take them some 50 or 60 years - longer than they were under communism! - to go back to the income levels they had at the fall of communism."

The next group includes those nations that are merely moderate failures, with per capita economic growth rates under 1.7 percent a year. These are nations like Russia and Hungary that continue to fall steadily behind the West - about 40 percent of the post-communist world by population.

The third group includes those with growth rates between 1.7 percent and 1.9 percent. These countries, like the Czech Republic and Slovenia, are holding steady with the capitalist world. Finally there are the successes, the nations that are catching up. This group includes Poland, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. But Milanovic points out that many of these nations are growing simply because they have oil or something valuable to dig out of the ground. There are only five countries that have emerged as successful capitalist economies: Albania, Poland, Belarus, Armenia and Estonia.

To put it another way, only 10 percent of the people living in post-communist nations are living in a place that successfully made the transition to capitalism. Ninety percent are living un-

der failed transitions of one sort or another. This fact is already yielding screwed up politics in places like Hungary and Russia and will shape the 21st century. Why did some countries succeed while others failed?

First, leaders in some countries simply made better political decisions. Most of these countries enacted economic reforms, like deregulating prices and privatizing nationalized companies. Some nations like Estonia and Poland enacted reforms radically and quickly, while others tried to do them gradually or barely at all - with expensive security blankets for protected interests. The quick and radical group saw a slightly bigger output drop over the near term but much more prosperity over the long run.

Then there is the level of institutions. Many Western advisers focused on the headline reforms - writing new constitutions and creating stock markets. But Larry Lawson, an economist who worked with the Poles and Ukrainians, points out that these nations lacked the basic building blocks we take for granted. Before you have a stock market, for example, you have to have publicly available data about companies, credit records and accounting systems.

Finally, and most important, there is the level of values. A nation's economy is nestled in its moral ecology. Economic performance is tied to history, culture and psychology.

Poland, for example, had been invaded throughout its history, yielding a pragmatic, survivor ethos. The Poles had a keen desire to initiate reforms on their own. Poles also had a clear sense of justice and injustice, since they had seen the Russians do things the wrong way on their own territory. They placed a high value on education and social mobility.

Other countries lacked this cultural brew. Worse, life was marked by fear, by arbitrary power, by suspicion that people are watching you, by distrust. People raised in this atmosphere of distrust have trouble forming companies and associations. They are more likely to be driven by a grab-what-you-can logic - a culture of corruption and appropriation. They are more likely to hunker down and become risk averse.

Many of the ailing countries are marked by distant power relationships. Those with power - even in an office or neighborhood - are aloof and domineering. Those without power hanker for security at all costs. They're nostalgic for the imagined stability of communism. When everything seems arbitrary and crooked, people tolerate strongman rule.

The lesson of the past 25 years is that democratic prosperity is built on layers of small achievements 10,000 fathoms deep. Communism ripped at all that bottom-up society-making and damaged the psyches of its victims. Healing from those wounds is gradual. Progress is not guaranteed.



25 YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Don't Ask How to Feed The 9 Billion



MARK BITTMAN
© 2014 New York Times

At dinner with a friend the other night, I mentioned that I was giving a talk this week debunking the idea that we need to grow more food on a large scale so we can "feed the 9 billion" - the anticipated global population by 2050.

She looked at me, horrified, and said, "But how are you going to produce enough food to feed the hungry?"

I suggested she try this exercise: "Put yourself in the poorest place you can think of. Imagine yourself in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example. Now. Are you hungry? Are you going to go hungry? Are you going to have a problem finding food?"

The answer, obviously, is "no." Because she - and almost all of you reading this - would be standing in that country with some \$20 bills and a wallet filled with credit cards.

And you would go buy yourself something to eat.

The difference between you and the hungry is not production levels; it's money. There are no hungry people with money; there isn't a shortage of food, nor is there a distribution problem. There is an I-don't-have-the-land-and-resources-to-produce-my-own-food, nor-can-I-afford-to-buy-food problem.

And poverty and the resulting hunger aren't matters of bad luck; they are often a result of people buying the property of traditional farmers and displacing them, appropriating their water, energy and mineral resources, and even producing cash crops for export while reducing the people growing the food to menial and hungry laborers on their own land.

Poverty isn't the only problem, of course. There is also the virtually unregulated food system that is geared toward making money rather than feeding people. (Look no further than the ethanol mandate or high fructose corn syrup for evidence.)

If poverty creates hunger, it teams up with the food system to create another form of malnourishment: obesity (and what's called "hidden hunger," a lack of micronutrients). If you define "hunger" as malnutrition, and you accept that overweight and obesity are forms of malnutrition as well, than almost half the world is malnourished.

The solution to malnourishment isn't to produce more food. The solution is to eliminate poverty. Look at the most agriculturally productive country in the world: the United States. Is there hunger here? Yes, quite a bit. We have the highest percentage of hungry people of any developed nation, a rate closer to that of Indonesia than that of Britain.

Is there a lack of food? You laugh at that question. It is, as former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler likes to call it, "a food carnival." It's just that there's a steep ticket price.

A majority of the world is fed by hundreds of millions of small-scale farmers, some of whom are themselves among the hungry. The rest of the hungry are underpaid or unemployed workers. But boosting yields does nothing for them.

So we should not be asking, "How will we feed the world?" but "How can we help end poverty?" Claiming that increasing yield would feed the poor is like saying that producing more cars or private jets would guarantee that everyone had one.

And how do we help those who have malnutrition from excess eating? We can help them, and help preserve the earth's health, if we recognize that the industrial model of food production is neither inevitable nor desirable. That is, the kind of farming we

can learn from people who still have a real relationship with the land and are focused on quality rather than yield.

The best method of farming for most people is probably traditional farming boosted by science. The best method of farming for those in highly productive agricultural societies would be farming made more intelligent and less rapacious. That is, the kind of farming we can learn from people who still have a real relationship with the land and are focused on quality rather than yield. The goal should be food that is green, fair, healthy and affordable.

It's not news that the poor need money and justice. If there's a bright side here, it's that it might be easier to make the changes required to fix the problems created by industrial agriculture than those created by inequality. There's plenty of food. Too much of it is going to feed animals, too much of it is being converted to fuel and too much of it is being wasted.

We don't have to increase yield to address any of those issues; we just have to grow food more smartly than with the brute force of industrial methods, and we need to address the circumstances of the poor.

Our slogan should not be "let's feed the world," but "let's end poverty."

Second-Tier Office Sites Going Green in Manhattan

C.J. HUGHES

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - Class B office buildings are known for being old, no-frills and off the beaten path. What they are usually not associated with is energy efficiency. That may be changing. In the last few years, a handful of those buildings in New York, in Hudson Square, the garment district and Times Square, have taken steps to shrink their carbon footprints, as their fancier Class A counterparts have done

and a senior vice president with the Jones Lang LaSalle commercial brokerage.

APF Properties, a New York-based firm focused on Class B buildings, recently completed the bulk of an eco-friendly makeover of 28 W. 44th St., a 22-story, 370,000-square-foot pre-war building it owns with Prudential Real Estate Investors.

Many of the improvements to the 1919 building, which for decades housed The New Yorker magazine near

44th St. received a rare gold-level rating from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program, or LEED, which is run by the U.S. Green Building Council.

A point-based system that mainly ranks various green retrofits, LEED liked that the building had replaced fluorescent bulbs with versions that consume less power. The gold rating, which is LEED's second-highest behind the platinum rating and was made in the full-

many buildings are close to subways anyway.

The fact that most tenants commute to 28 W. 44th St. without driving partly accounted for 16 out of 110 points.

Berndt Perl, an APF managing member, has made other moves that were not required by LEED, but are likely to lower energy use, like replacing hinged doors in the lobby with a revolving door, so less heat escapes.

Still, Class B buildings receiv-

owned by Trinity Real Estate. No Class B's have platinum status.

Although there is no official distinction, Class A offices tend to be well designed on major streets with full services. Class B buildings are generally on side streets with fewer services, smaller tenants and declining rents. In more prominent Class A properties, rents can reflect a premium, up to 15 percent, according to Schneider of Jones Lang LaSalle, who has been instrumental in the renovation of the Empire State Building. About a fifth of its \$550 million has gone to green improvements, like insulating 6,514 windows.

"A lot of times people think that it's hard to make these old buildings green, but they actually have the capability of being much more efficient than newer buildings" with large windows that may leak more heat, she said.

Renovating offices does pose some singular problems.

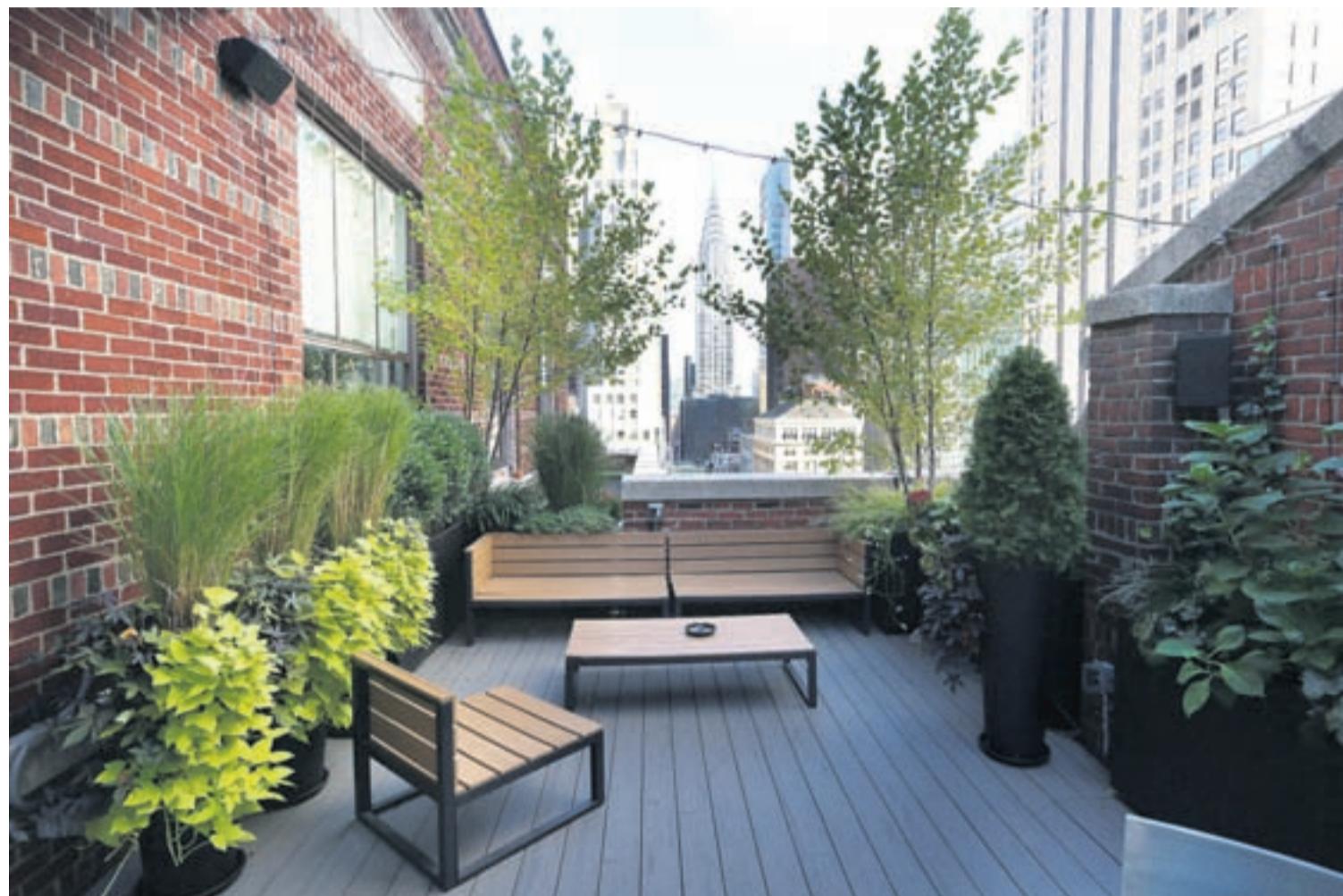
Ripping down walls can expose contaminants like lead and asbestos, said Richard Paradis, a director of the National Institute of Building Sciences, a non-profit group that focuses on retrofit projects.

And, removing ceiling panels to let in more daylight, another common goal, can result in rooms that are noisy, he said. "It's all a balance," Paradis said.

Next year, the city will issue new standards for buildings to help them cut their emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

The standards, which will be written by more than a dozen people from the real estate industry, including developers, engineers and architects, will function like a road map.

Landlords will be given a set of phased goals, tailored to certain types of buildings, which will allow them to arrive at the 80 percent goal. Part of a push by Mayor Bill de Blasio to curb fossil fuel use, the plan seems to have more teeth than previous efforts, because the goals will be mandatory. □



A green space on the rooftop of 28 West 44th Street in New York. In the last few years, a handful of Class B office buildings in New York have taken steps to shrink their carbon footprints, reaping significant energy savings as they do so.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

for years.

While landlords of Class B buildings find it difficult to recoup what they spend on green features from their tenants, energy savings can be significant, analysts say. And with mounting pressure from city officials on landlords to make their buildings more energy efficient - under the threat of possible punishment if they do not - similar properties are expected to do the same soon, analysts add.

"It took a long time for the market to shift, but it's happening," said Dana Schneider, an energy specialist

Fifth Avenue in Midtown, have received approval from multiple agencies. Putting in low-flow toilets, for instance, has helped the building, which is also known as the Club Row Building, cut water use by 25 percent, according to APF. Motion sensors were added to hallways so lights shut off automatically.

Those measures have helped the building receive high scores from the Energy Star program, which monitors utility use and is overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Also, this summer, 28 W.

building category, was also based on APF's turning a storage area in the lobby into a bicycle room, which contained 10 bikes on a recent afternoon.

That custodial crews use nontoxic cleaning solvents when mopping the floors helped. Recycled paper products also counted, as did the Energy Star plaudits. Some critics say LEED ratings overstate green bona fides by assigning too many points for access to public transportation; that overweighting is especially problematic in Manhattan, they add, because so

ing any of the four LEED ratings, certified, silver, gold or platinum, number about a half-dozen in the city compared with about 80 Class A buildings with some type of LEED ranking, according to the Building Council.

Class B offices that are gold are a slightly more select group.

They include 1440 Broadway, a 25-story Midtown building that received the award in 2013; 498 Seventh Ave., a brick high-rise at West 37th Street in the garment district; and 345 Hudson St., a former printing plant in Hudson Square